ENRICO MAGNANI

RIVISTA MILITARE

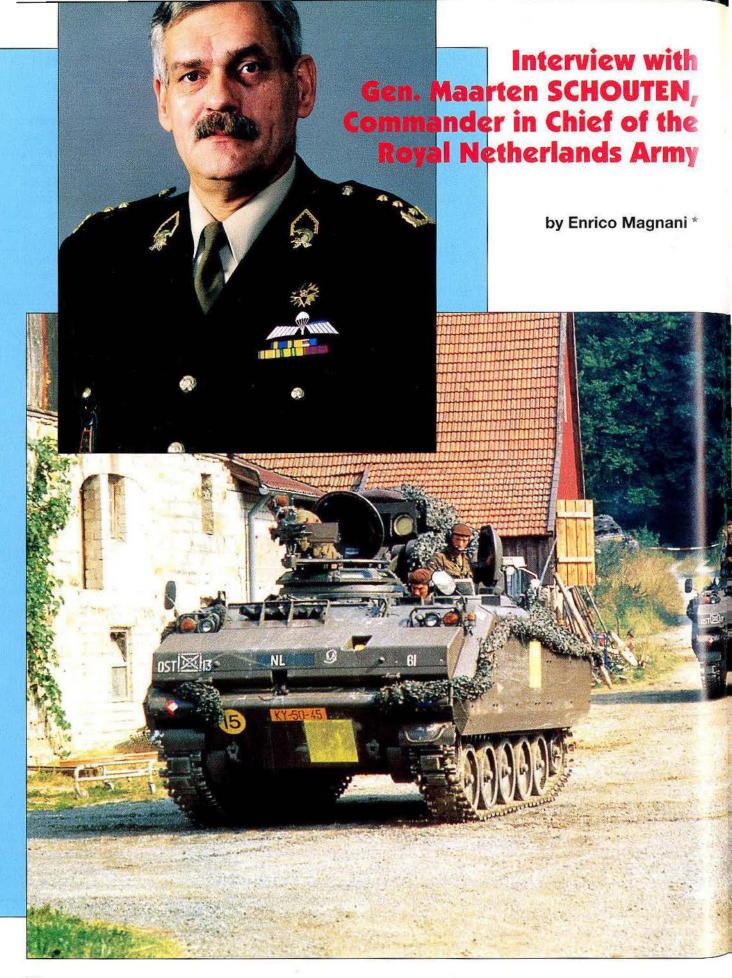
EDZIONE IN INGLESE



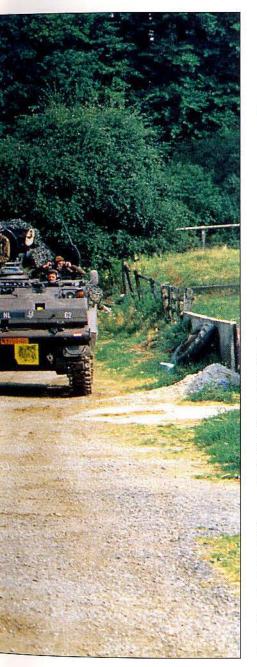
ELENCO DEGLI ARTICOLI PUBBLICATI PER ANNO IN LINGUA INGLESE

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HOLLAND THE NEW ARMY



The Dutch Army is engaged in a difficult programme of reorganization which will continue up to the year 2000.

The aim is to realize a highly flexible instrument, to efficiently contribute to peace operations and to guarantee the defence of the national territory. We discussed these subjects with General Maarten Schouten, Commander in Chief of the Royal Army.

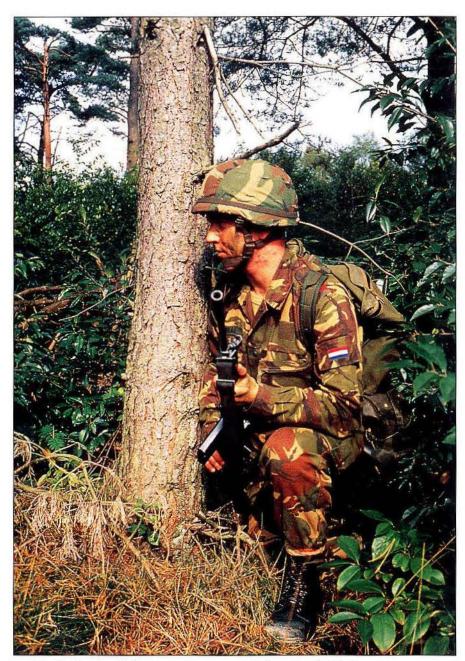
Sir, the Royal Netherlands Army today is confronted with great challenges, such as the reduction of the force and the professionalization. Could you describe the situation and the perspective of the Netherlands land forces for the Italian readers? What kind of problems were to be resolved for this philosophical change?

The basis for the reductions you mention and the transition to an all-volunteer army is laid down in the Defence Priorities Review which the Dutch government published in 1993.

As a result of this review, the Dutch armed Forces, and therefore also the Army, is better equipped for the tasks they face following the end of the cold war. Reduced in number, but with better mobility and more flexibility, for being able to make a sufficient contribution to peace operations in addition to the defence of the NATO treaty area.

Over the past few years, defence expenditure has decreased: the defence budget for 1998 is in real terms more than a quarter lower than for 1990.

The number of personnel in the Dutch Armed Forces is down by more than forty per cent compared to 1990 and drastic restructuring has taken place. Personnel is a decisive factor in armed forces everywhere. The introduction of new weapon systems, the expansion of tasks to include peace operations,



The 11th Airborne Brigade, whose formations operated in Bosnia-Herzegovina, is one of the leading units of the Netherlands Army.

is a priority. I have tremendous admiration for my personnel as, in spite of all the uncertainty, they worked hard and with great lovalty on the transformation into a new all-volunteer Army. Special programmes and external agencies were used to supervise the departure of superfluous personnel. In July 1997 we were so far advanced with the process that I was able to announce to the personnel that compulsory redundancies were unnecessary. A second important factor was that we never closed our doors due to the restructuring process. Over the last few years we have contributed fully to various NATO or UN missions, and we continued carrying out training and maintained our state of readiness.

During the reorganization process, there turned out to be a surplus of qualified personnel, Officers and NCOs. What kind of solutions are being thought of for a problem with such economic and social impact?

That is a very pertinent question. For each restructuring process, whether you like it or not, the first question is always: what does it mean to me personally? Uncertainty is destructive, especially if it continues for years.

Within the framework of personnel leaving the organization, the project "Taking care of work" was crucial. First of all, I asked people to take a close look at themselves to see whether they wanted to continue being a part of the new Army. The culture in the Armed Forces did not just change thanks to the

restructuring and changes to management have demanded a great deal of the personnel.

The many hundreds of restructuring projects are going according to plan. The entire restructuring process will continue until the year 2000. We are now busy adding the final touches, finetuning the organisation. For example, the Defence Priorities Review contains the standard that personnel can only be on detachment for a maximum of six months in a period of one and a half years. That means that for

each unit which is on detachment, in principle two others must be present. I need to be able to divide the parts of my organisation into three: for each unit which is on detachment, another of the same type is recuperating and one is preparing. This division into three has now ben achieved.

If you asked me what the major problems or points for attention have been, I would name two. In the first place the cutbacks in particular meant a great deal of uncertainty for my personnel. Keeping as many jobs as possible introduction of the professional soldier, the sharp increase in the number of missions abroad also set people thinking. In short, voluntary departure from the organisation was encouraged and did help. That willingness is only created if you offer an alternative. Within the framework of "Taking care of work", an active policy was pursued of finding jobs in industry or business, both individually and collectively. For example, we started a project which enabled transfer to the police or prison service. Other measures, such as early retirement, also helped to avoid compulsory redundancies.

The Italian Armed Forces are preparing for admission of female personnel. Could you describe the experience and difficulties the Royal Netherlands Army has had when introducing female personnel into its ranks? When did the introduction of female personnel start?

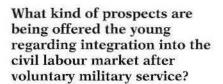
I can say that I am completely satisfied with our female personnel. The actual intake of women in all ranks started in 1979. Before that time, a small number of female personnel were to be found in a separate female corps, which mainly handled administrative work. All functions are in principle open to women, including combat functions. The only exception is the Commando Corps.

The only limitations which I sometimes see are physical ones; the Commandos are an example of that. The physical limitations are generally not a problem however, as they are solved in the group situation. A female mechanic will not often replace the wheel of a large crane. The group will itself ensure that she is given other tasks. Of course, adaptation is necessary, such as

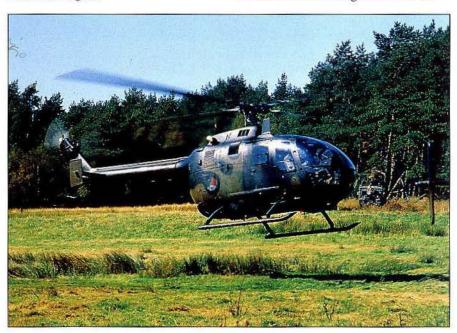
separate accommodation in the barracks, but I certainly do not see that as a problem.

In my experience, women are very motivated and have huge stamina. Approximately 9% of my total personnel complement now consists of women. I have nothing against that figure being much higher. In fact, one of the greatest challenges for the Army-

BO-105 Helicopter; Holland has recently acquired attack (AH-64A) and transport (CH-47D) aircraft for its Airborne Brigade.



The young professional soldier is a highly motivated source of manpower. As far as quality is concerned there is no problem. The quantity required does, however, demand attention. Since 1994 I have been occupied with the transition to an all-volunteer Army. In August 1996 the last conscripts left my organization. To begin with, I could recruit a large number of



in view of increasing demand on the labour market - is to obtain sufficient numbers of personnel. Without women I would never fulfill my annual need for approximately 5,000 new personnel.

Transition from conscription to professionalization imposes a philosophical change within the military organization as a whole, starting with recruitment. What kind of measures have been adopted recently to incentivate the enrolement of volunteers?

personnel from the group of former conscripts. Partly thanks to this effect, in 1996 I had a recruitment result of about 92%. In 1997 that figure is about ten per cent lower.

It is not so much that there is less interest in the Army. It is the number of actual applications that has dropped. The improvement in the economy and more alternatives on the labour market are also factors. The number of school leavers is also falling.

I do not intend to change the entrance requirements radically: I have, however, drawn up a



The defence of mechanized units against the air threat is ensured by the "Caesar" self-propelled gun, Dutch version of the German "Gepard".

whole portfolio of measures. In addition to the financial reward, you have to think of " mini careers", pre-recruitment, reducing the percentage of dropouts in the training stage and offering recognized diplomas.

We increasingly offer study facilities to the regular personnel with a fixed-term contract. Both the professional diplomas and the experience must offer the young service personnel a good starting position on the labour market.

Another instrument is the "Employer Support" programme, in which together with industry and business we look at what we can offer each other with regard to personnel. In this way we facilitate the transition to industry or business. Within Employer Support we also learn how we can reach better agreements with industry or business with regard to calling up reservists.

The Army recently decided to increase their component of Special Foces dedicated to direct action and long range reconnaissance patrol. What have been the reasons for this choice?

The operations in former Yugoslavia and elsewhere have proved the value of small, specialist units. My Commando Corps now has one, partially combat-ready, company. The sustainability of the Commando Corps is being improved by the addition of 87 commandos. The

existing corps is being restructured into a unit with three commando companies. They are indeed used for long range reconnaissance patrols. The direct action you mention is limited to military assignments, in front of or behind our own lines. They are not meant for special assignments outside the military field.

Personnel and units of the Royal Netherlands Army have taken part in several peace support operations under several flags. What lessons, i.e. doctrine and policy, have you learned from participation in peace operations?

We have learned a lot. As for Italy and other NATO partners, peace support operations are not new to us. We have been involved with them in various forms

throughout our history, including during the cold war. The Netherlands Army has contributed to all kinds of UN missions for many years, for example UNIFIL in Lebanon. It is obvious that a shift in tasks following the end of the "cold war" has also caused a shift in military thinking.

Many countries have adapted their doctrine as a result of the lessons they have learnt. The doctrine of the Royal Netherlands Army has also changed fundamentally in many respects. In relation to this we have followed the developments in partner countries and NATO very closely. In April 1996 I published a new doctrine.

If you ask me what the most important lessons are, I believe that for all operations you need to have a clear "end state" in view. You must also be very conscious of the risk of escalation. Robust action and the built-in opportunity for escalation dominance are key terms for me.

Will the professionalization of the Royal Netherlands Army change the path of professional and cultural education and training of the personnel of the force? What will be the main changes and challenges on this fundamental aspect of military life?

The whole system of training changes if you transfer from conscription, in which soldiers are called up for about one year, to a situation in which you can have professionals at your disposal with a contract for a minimum of two and a half years. About 60% of them, by the way, extend their contracts and we keep the regular personnel with a fixed-term contract until a maximum age of thirty.

For me, after restructuring, professionalization of the organization is a priority. I am aiming for that by, among other things, improving the position and the role of the non-commissioned officers.

Professional means that you understand your profession, but it must also be expressed in your attitude and conduct. I am also introducing a code of conduct, which applies to everyone in my organization: from soldier to general, for military and civilian personnel. The code serves as an instrument for making agreements on standards with regard to attitude and conduct.

I see this code of conduct as the

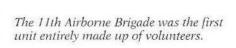
icing on the cake of the growth process towards an all-volunteer Army. It is not a new concept, but not all professional service personnel are by definition "professionals". The eight rules describe the desired conduct; they hold up a mirror to people. The code talks of pride, team spirit, security and exudes what the Americans call a "can do mentality".

A great part of the Royal Netherlands Army is assigned to NATO or is a WEUanswerable force. Does this choice signify a denationalization of your defence?

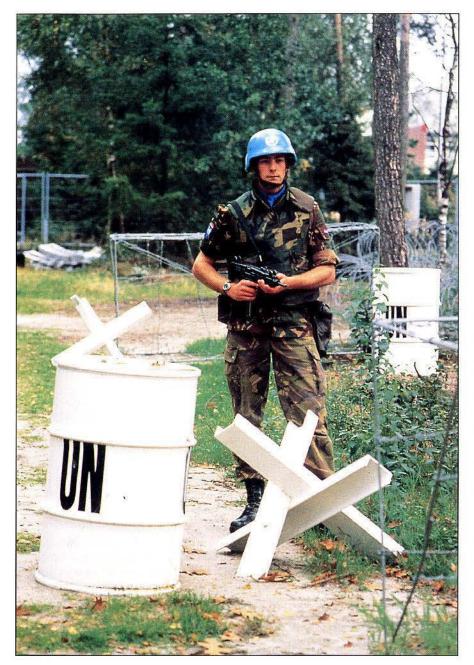
Yes and no. Politically speaking I believe there is no denationalization. When deploying my units, national political approval always comes first, even for non-Article 5 operations. As long as we are not involved in task specialization within NATO and WEU, national responsibility and decision-making will remain dominant.

Allow me to say, however, that in a purely military sense there has been denationalization since the Second World War. I cannot immagine any operations in the near future outside Dutch territory which will be carried out on a purely national basis. All operations will in that sense always be Joint and Combined. Operationally we are thus in fact denationalized.

The bulk of the heavy forces of the Royal Netherlands Army are part of the NATO main defence forces, as the joint Army Corps with Germany. When was this Corps







Holland provided men and equipment to the UNPROFOR contingent in Bosnia, and participated in several other peace-keeping missions.

established? Would you like to give us a short historical insight about this interesting experiment?

By the end of 1991, the Dutch and German Ministers of Defence had decided to set up the I German/Netherlands Corps. Three treaties, which contained the arrangements concerning the actual cooperation, were signed to lay the foundations for this corps. The inauguration took place in the presence of Dutch Prime Minister Kok and German Chancellor Kohl in the Corps' garrison town of Munster, Germany on 30 August 1995. The Dutch Lieutenant-General Ruurd Reitsma became the first Commander. The German Liutenant General Karsten Oltmanns took over command on 27 November 1997. It is unique for a commanding officer to be in command of foreign soldiers in peacetime.

In European history it is, as far as I know, the first time that two standing Corps staffs have merged into one. The Commander of the Corps has

integrated directing and control authority which goes far beyond the current practice of subordination within NATO.

On 5 October 1997, several documents were signed, amongst others by both Ministers of Defence, that led the way to deeper integration. German Crisis Reaction Forces and Dutch Standing Forces assigned to the Corps, or subordinated to it, can be used for joint participation in multinational crisis management operations. The corps headquarters will be offered to WEU as Forces Answerable to the WEU. Training and logistics are not only national responsibilities but also a collective responsibility, which is a significant and unique form of cooperation between two NATO countries.

The technical part of the command and control structure works well; the mental part too, as was demonstrated during the "Active Sword" Corps exercise in the autumn of 1997. I am very pleased with the progress made in the field of integration. I have complete confidence in the effectiveness of this binational Corps staff.

What are the most important programmes for the future of the Royal Netherlands Army? Are some of them multinational?

Through international cooperation, the Royal Netherlands Army attempts to achieve as high a degree of interoperability as possible with its allies. In view of the close cooperation with Germany in the binational Corps, in many cases

A "Fuchs" of the EW company; much of the Dutch equipment is similar to that used by the Germans, in order to facilitate the integration of the two Countries' forces in a binational Corps.

an extension of that is sought. Other partners, such as the United Kingdom, France and also Belgium/Luxembourg (in a Benelux context), are also always important with regard to intensive cooperation. Important materiel programmes include the improvement of the Leopard 2, the replacement of armoured vehicles such as our YPR-765 and, finally, the replacement of the M109/M114 howitzers.

As far as materiel projects are concerned, I of course follow closely the developments in the field of digitizing the battlefield. The extent to which we should go along with the developments, in particular in the United States, remains a question to be answered. I am following those developments with a great deal of interest.

As far as programmes are concerned, in addition to materiel these will involve future spearheads. I would like to conclude by naming three targets.

First of all, I would like to improve the manning of the personnel complement as quickly as possible to above 90%. Secondly, exercises have unfortunately suffered due to the restructuring. The required attention will be paid to exercises, for peace operations and specifically also for the General Defence tasks. Finally, I have already mentioned this, I am concentrating on creating an Army of professionals. I am proud of the current Royal Netherlands Army and can honestly say that I view the future with great confidence.

* Journalist



Lieutenant General Maarten SCHOUTEN was born in Waddinxveen on 11 December 1943.

He started his military career in September 1961 as a cadet of the Engineer Corps at the Royal Military Academy in Breda. On 1 August 1966, he received his commission as a Second Lieutenant of the Engineers.

As Lieutenant and Captain he held various functions with the 43rd Armoured Engineer Company, the Engineer Training Centre and the 11th Engineer Battalion.

In 1974, he began his Advance Military Studies at the Army Staff College in the Hague. After receiving his advanced Military Studies certificate in 1976, he was assigned to the Army Staff as the Head of the Office for Operational Materiel Matters.

In 1980, Major Schouten was assigned to the Staff of the First Army Corps as Chief Assistant to the Chief of Staff and subsequently as Deputy Head of Section G3. He was then assigned to the Staff of the Commander in Chief of the RNLA as Head of the General Personnel Matters Commander of the 41st Engineer Battalion in the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

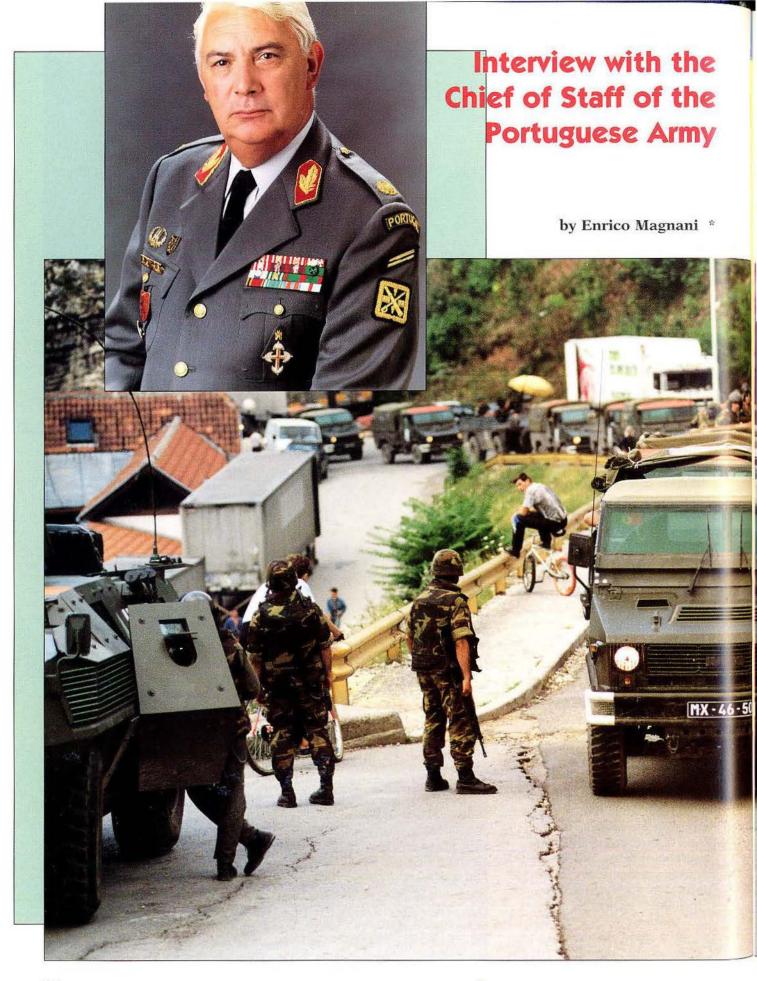
As a Colonel, he served as Head of Section G3 with the Staff of the 1st (NL) Corps from October 1986 to December 1988. From December 1988 to October 1989, he attended a course at the College of Defence Studies in London. From October 1989 to April 1991, he was Commander of the Royal Netherlands Army Communications Command and Deputy Chief of the Army Staff (Command, Control and Communications).

In April 1991, Brigadier General Schouten became Commander of the 12th Armoured Infantry Brigade; in April 1992 he was appointed Commander of the 1st (NL) Corps and simultaneously promoted to the rank of Lieutenant General.

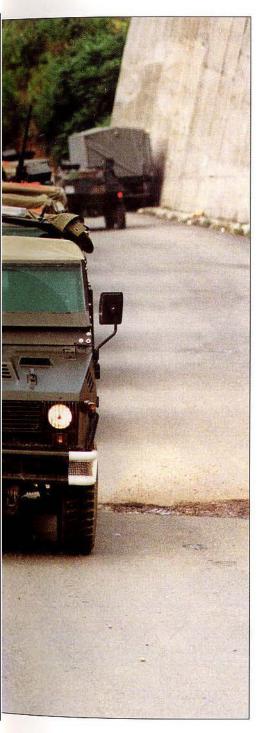
In October 1994, he became Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff at the Central Organization of the Ministry of Defence.

With effect from July 4, 1995, Lieutenant General Schouten was appointed Commander in Chief of the Royal Netherlands Army.

Lieutenant General Schouten is a Knight of the Order of the Lion of the Netherlands and an Officer in the Order of Merit of France. He was awarded the Officers' Long Service Medal for 30 years and the 1966 Royal Wedding Medal. He is married to Mrs. Gerdien van Heck and has two children, a daughter and a son.



PURTUGAL THE NEW ARMY



The Exército Portugues has entered the road of a profound renewal which, within the next six years, will transform it into an agile and flexible structure, capable of integrating in international contingents for the development of humanitarian, peace-keeping and peace-enforcing missions.

Rivista Militare discussed these and other subjects with General Gabriel Augusto do Espirito Santo, Chief of Staff of the Portuguese Army.

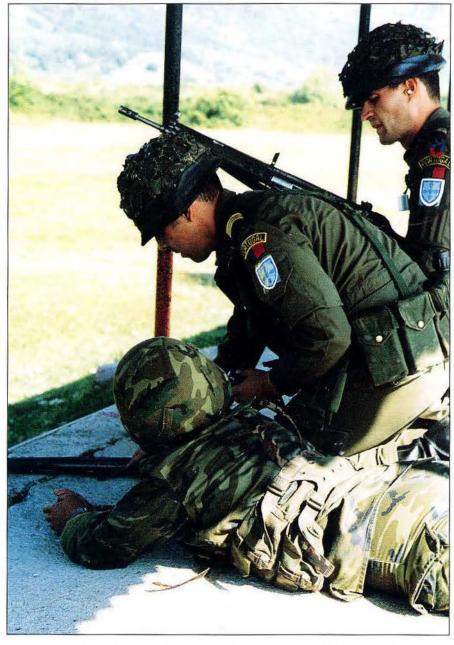
General, Portuguese soldiers are today engaged in many missions abroad, from Bosnia with SFOR to Western Sahara with the UN; they frequently operate side by side with Italian contingents. Could you outline the present organization and future programmes of the Portuguese Army?

The engagement of the Portuguese military - Cadres and troops, men and women outside the national territory corresponds, for the Army, to an orientation, as for other Armies, towards "choice conflicts" rather than "necessity conflicts". This means that the Army supports the foreign policy of the Nation, as far as it concerns the international organizations which safeguard collective security or promote peace on the Globe. In these missions we are side by side with allied and

friendly military contingents. This shows that dialogue, cooperation and mutual understanding are the new missions of Armed Forces aiming at peace and stability, in areas of the Earth which long for democracy and development in a frame of security.

The Portuguese Army is motivated by these missions, but does not forget that its primary mission is the defence of the Motherland, its integrity and its populations. The Army is going through an important phase of transition, from an Army based on conscription to one founded an volunteer recruitment. To reach the number of effectives necessary for this system (approximately 24,500-Officers, NCOs and Soldiers included) we need a period of transition (6 years) and adequate financial resources. The objective we

Officers of the Portuguese Army engaged in firing-range training.



contingents from more than twenty nations. What are the lessons learned from this long and difficult multinational experience?

The first lesson learned is the easiness, for the military, to cooperate with other soldiers. All Armies foster values of comradeship, discipline, hierarchy as well as rites which constitute the common language of the military status; this makes mutual understanding easier. Also training - for both Cadres and troops - is not very different from army to army. With this starting base, one must make the appropriate adaptations in command, control and support, with very clearly defined rules of engagement.

Of course there are cultural differences among soldiers. Not in the case of Portugal and Italy, since the armies of the two Nations have been cooperating for more than twenty years, and there are very similar traits in the vouth of the two countries. This makes cohabitation easy, friendly and good-humoured. Also the relations with the contingents of the other NATO countries are easy, since for many years the Alliance has been developing relations and doctrines known to all Cadres.

way, and it is important to continue our cooperation with the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, as well as with those of the southern basin of the Mediterranean.

But we still have to go a long

want to achieve is a modern and efficient Army, with motivated men and women, well settled on the national territory, with 2 or 3 Military Regions on the Mainland and 2 Military Zones in the Azores and Madeira.

With a force system based on 3 permanent Brigades (one mechanized, one airborne and a light brigade), the Army will have modern and well equipped combat instruments, as well as support formations also able to perform missions of public interest, if necessary,

in support of the populations in case of emergency or disaster.

The Investment Laws (Military Planning Law), starting in 1998, will enable the Army to acquire efficient means for Command, Control and Information. Combat support (light helicopters), Medical support.

Portuguese troops have been participating in the peace mission in Bosnia since December 1995; many units have rotated, cooperating with

Professionalism in the Armed Forces is a need felt in all NATO countries. How does the project of requalification of the Cadres fit in the restructuring and

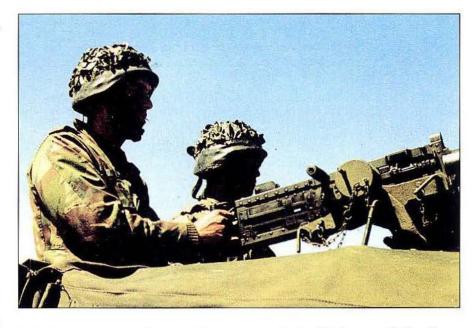
Also the Portuguese Army carries out specific training activities in view of "out-of-area" missions.

operational effort of the Portuguese Army?

The Permanent Cadres of the Portuguese Army are very well qualified, due to the efforts the Army has always made for the training and specialization of these officers along their careers. Their adaptation to the new operational requirements has been an easy job. As a matter of fact, the Army can still avail itself of the training and experience of the African campaign, where the peace mission strongly required contacts with the population and its protection. These Cadres adapt very well to the new concepts in military service, and accept them better than a short and frustrating military service.

The trend in many NATO countries is to arrive at the abolition of conscription. Also in Italy a debate is under way on the convenience of an all-volunteer army. What are the prospects in this sector for the Portuguese Army?

The Portuguese Army hopes, by the year 2003, to increase by



1.000 volunteers each year. The recruitment is made for Platoon Commanders (Officers) and Section Commanders (NCOs); we envisage to reach, for these ranks, the number of 1.500 men.

As far as soldiers and corporals are concerned, the number to reach is approximately 16.000. This means that these regulars will enable us to have a minimum system of forces, guaranteeing the administrative aspects of some institutions with civilian personnel (approx. 5.500).

The transition compels us to establish military duty for about 25.000 youths per year (4

months) with the possibility for some of them (2000) to extend their time up to 7 months. These numbers will progressively decrease as the number of volunteers increases.

In the Italian situation, the recruitment of volunteers involves remarkable problems, connected with the need to guarantee a future occupation to the young who have honorably carried out their two-year or three-year term of service. What are the solutions, adopted or under study, to encourage the enlistment of volunteers?

During the performance of the military service, the Army tries to facilitate the studies of these youths, and/or to provide them with a professional qualification. This takes place in agreement with the state institutions. Furthermore there are incentives, as easy credits for the purchase of a house, a sum of money at the end of the service, as well as favourable conditions for the



An instructor shows the main components of a CETME automatic rifle.



Portuguese and Italian soldiers work side by side in the peace-keeping operation in Bosnia.

admission to the security forces (Police and private Companies) and to the Republican National Guard (comparable to the Italian Carabinieri).

The Portuguese Army already has the experience of the presence of female personnel in its ranks. What are the changes, both operational and logistic, that had to be made in order to introduce women in the various jobs?

In the Portuguese Army we have, at present, about 1.200 women, in the ranks from private to major. We have now the first women-officers at the Military Accademy. At the present time, women can only serve at combat support or service support units. At the Military Academy, there is a woman-cadet for the Artillery.

We had to adapt structures and Physical Training programmes to the particular requirements of female personnel. For everything else, conditions are the same as for male personnel.

In the course of this year, highly specialized units as paratroops, rangers, mechanized and motorized infantry will complete the phase of incorporation into various Atlantic and European commands such as ARRC, EUROFOR and AMF. What have been the main difficulties of adaptation and

standardization the Portuguese Army had to face?

The Portuguese Army has a long experience with NATO, which started in the '50s - with the 3rd Po Division - was interrupted in the '60s but resumed in the '70s within AFSOUTH, with the 1st BMI attached to a Unit of the Italian Army.

In 1997, a Special Operations
Detachment, integrated in the
AMF, had to operate in the Arctic
Polar Circle. Although climatic
conditions were atypical
compared to those the
Detachment was used to,
adaptation took place in a short
time. It is abvious that for these
situations it is necessary to have
a better training in the English
language as well as in the
employment of the most
advanced means of
communication.

In the recent international crises we see an increase in the number of so-called "low intensity" conflicts as well as in the operations for the rescue of compatriots residing in the crisis areas, the NEO (Noncombatant Evacuation Operations). International contingents, among which Portuguese units of operation "Forrez" have recently been deployed for some time in Equatorial Africa to protect the evacuation of foreign citizens from Kinshasa and Brazzaville. Have you developed specific models for these type of operations?

Operations in Africa have always been easy for the Portuguese Army. We have been involved in peace operations in Africa (Mozambique, Angola, Western Sahara) since 1994 and recently we partecipated, with others, in an operation in Equatorial Africa. The Portuguese soldiers fit well in these missions. both from the point of view of the climatic conditions and from that of the contact with the population. The operational procedures we follow for the protection of the population, the evacuation to safe areas and the safeguard of humanitarian convoys are described in our manuals and we train very frequently. We can say, in fact, that we do not have to develop any specific operational procedure.

Portugal participates in EUROFOR, together with Italy, France and Spain. How will this "package of capabilities" find its place in a Euro-atlantic community which opens to the East and wants to dialogue with the southern shore of the Mediterranean?

Portugal is an Atlantic country, but it looks also at the Mediterranean. The Portuguese Army believes that dialogue and cooperation with some Nations of the Mediterranean basin could be important for European security. In this sense, at present, we are carrying out a technomilitary cooperation programme with MOROCCO and TUNISIA.

Also Portugal has to face general budget restrictions that inevitably have an effect on the resources for defence. How do you reconcile the reduced budgets with the need to maintain a credible instrument of defence and proceed with the modernization programmes?

In the budgets of the Army, the expenditures for personnel reach a significant percentage. The new system of military service implies an increase in costs. Only with investments for specific expenses as well as with increased budgets will it be possible to re-equip the Army for the demands of modern combat. This is what we have endeavoured to do with the Law on Military Programming, that in 1998 enters its third cycle of investments which, up to 2003, will exceed 60 billion escudos.

* Journalist

General Gabriel Augusto do Espirito Santo is 62 years old and has been on active service for 43 years. He was promoted to the present rank in 1991.

He attended the Artillery Course at the Army School, the General and Complementary General Staff Courses, as well as the Higher Course for Command and Direction at the Institute for High Military Studies.

He also attended the Command and General Staff Course in Brazil, the 57th Course of the NATO Defence College, as well as the Force Planning and Armament Research courses at the IAGB-OTTOBRUN in Germany.

In the course of his career, Gen. Gabriel Augusto do Espirito Santo served in several Units, Institutions and Organizations of the Army and the Armed Forces.

He has carried out two tours of duty in the former Portuguese colonies overseas, one in Mozambique with the rank of Captain, as Artillery Company Commander, and the other in Angola with the rank of Major, as Staff Officer.

Promoted to General, he was appointed National Permanent Representative to the NATO Military Committee, and served in this capacity from 1991 to 1994. At the Army General Staff, Gen. Gabriel Augusto do Espirito Santo held the position of Commander of Logistics from May 1994 to June 1995.

He has been also Deputy Chief of Staff of the Army from June 23, 1995 to April 16, 1997.

On April 17, 1997 he was appointed Chief of Staff of the Army. His record sheet shows 20 Citations; he also holds several decorations, among which: 2 Gold Medals for Distinguished Service, Silver Medal for Distinguished Service with Praise, Silver Medal for Distinguished Service, 1st and 2nd Class Medals for Military Merit.

General Gabriel Augusto do Espirito Santo is married to Mrs. Maria Antoinette Marcelo do Espirito Santo and has two sons, Rui Miguel and João Paolo, and one daughter, Isabel Maria.

BELGIUM THE NEW ARMY

The land forces are undertaking a difficult effort for their reorganization, in order to acquire, within five years, a structure based essentially on volunteer personnel. It is the same the world over. The Armed Forces of Belgium too, have to reckon with budget restrictions.

This is one of the matters we talked about with Liutenant General Roger Maes, Chief of Staff of the Army.

General, some months ago the Belgian Army completed an important part of its reorganization. Could you outline the basic stages of it?

The reason of this reorganization originates from the strategic and geopolitical situation of the late '80s and the early '90s. The fall of the Berlin Wall caused radical changes in Europe, as well as the end of the last military tensions concentrated towards the East. In mid-92, the outlines of the Belgian Army's new structure were fixed; this caused immediate consequences on the Army. Such consequences can be summed up in three points.

First of all, we have moved to a professional Army, keeping step with the abolition of the draft, starting from January 1st, 1994.

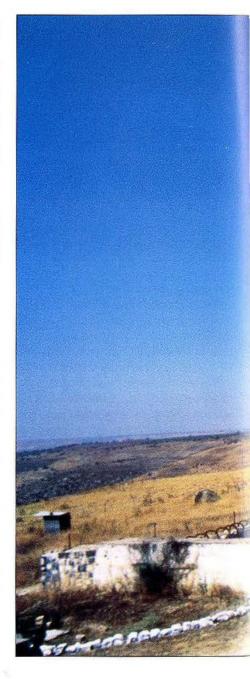
Secondly, the strength of the Army has been reduced from 60,000 to 27,500 units in peacetime, while the organization had to adapt itself to these new objectives.

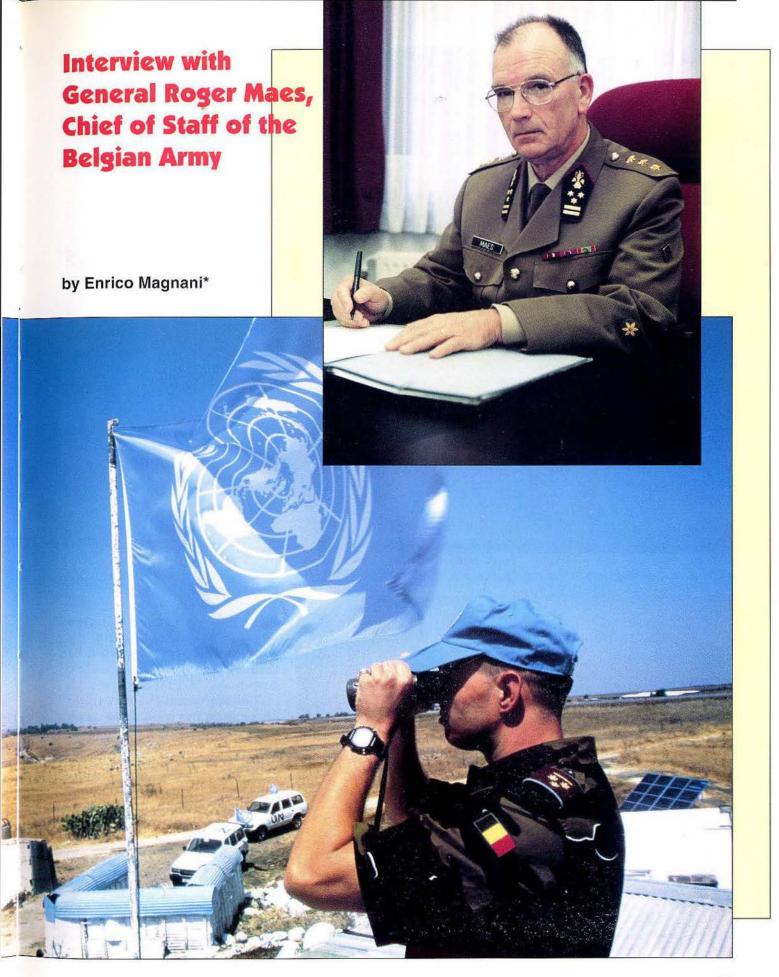
And, last but not least, the budget has been restricted to a fixed amount for five years.

In is also to be said that several units, with all their personnel, have been moved from Germany to Belgium.

This restructuring leads us to the present situation. How is the Army organized at present?

Since the beginning of 1997 the Army is composed of a three-



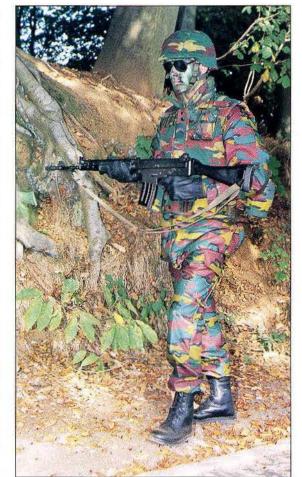


pillar structure. First of all, we have the Army Operational Command. This Command guarantees the training and the readiness of most of the units tasked to take part in every kind of operation, according to the mission required by the situation.

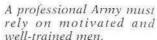
The Army Operational Command is composed of the 1st Mechanized Division, of the Paracommando Brigade, of the Light Aviation Group and of five firing and training ranges. The 1st Division includes, in its turn, three Mechanized Brigades and the Combat and Support Units of the Division.

The second pillar is represented by the Combat Support Division. Its mission is to guarantee the specialized and continuous training of the Army personnel, as well as the basic training of most of those who are going to become Non-Commissioned Officers. Moreover, such Division supports the Army Operational Command for Operations and training and, if necessary, it can contribute to bring to full strength the 1st Mechanized Division.

The Logistic Support Division



represents the third and last component of the structure. Its task is to give direct and basic



support in terms of supplies, maintenance and transportation, to the Army, to the Territorial Joint Command (CTI) and, partially, to the other Forces and the Gendarmerie. Besides these tasks the Division obviously guarantees, also by mobile detachments, the logistic support necessary to every kind of operation.

In the near future are further changes to be expected, as for the operational and support units?

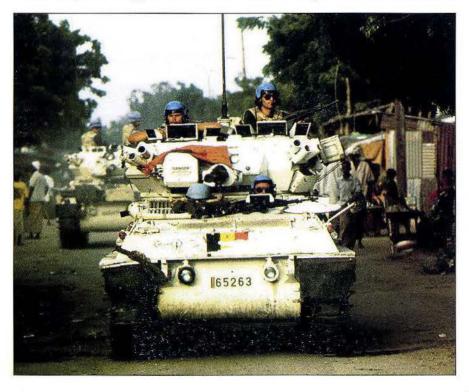
I think that it would be wise for us to plan a period of stabilization, in order to get everything ready in

detail. Moreover, the evolution of the geopolitical situation could lead us to reconsider the organization of our Army.

The present political situation represents, according to some opinions, a new kind of threat that requires a specific response.

What units can the Army rely on in order to guarantee such response?

The situation of the present world security may require a rapid commitment in distant places and in situations of crisis. We can distinguish two kinds of action, according to the times of



The Belgian Army can commit, for peace support operations, two reinforced battalions of 1,000 soldiers each.



Starting from January 1st, 1994, the draft has been abolished in Belgium.

intervention: an action in a very short while (only a few days); and another one, which requires some weeks with the commitment of more considerable means. We are permanently able to commit, for peace support operations, two reinforced battalions; each one includes 1,000 soldiers, who can be alternated for an indefinite period. In case of serious crisis threatening the security of Europe and susceptible to turn into a major conflict, we can engage up to about 7,000 soldiers; this represents more than 30% of our strength in peacetime. Such reaction capacity to the crises is to be considered remarkable, bearing our proportions in mind.

In the past, Belgium counted a considerable number of draftees in the ranks of its Army. At present, the Army is completely professionalized. What have been the steps to abolish the military service and what measures have been taken, at political and economic level, in order to improve the volunteers' recruitment?

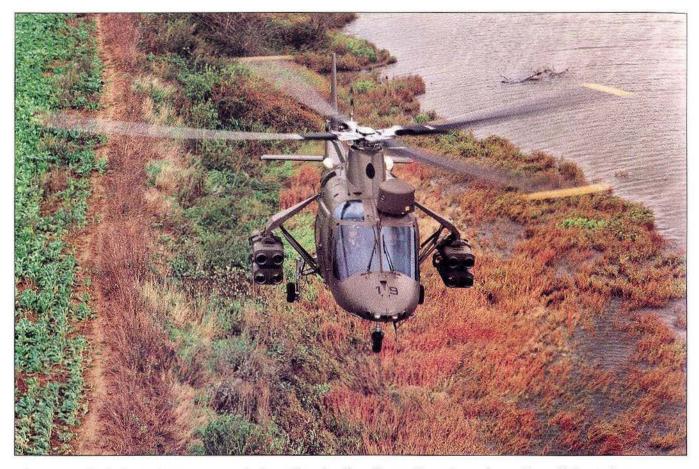
On the whole, I think that we have moved rather suddenly from the conscription to a professional Army, as we know it a present. In one year and a half, we have stopped the recruitment and, one year later, the last draftee finished his military service. This has involved the shortage of personnel available to accomplish the functions

previously carried out by draftees. Now, after four years, this deficiency has not been completely filled yet.

The political decision of restricting the budget has not allowed a sufficient recruitment. Consequently, five more years will be necessary to reach the required strength. In 1997 it was decided to take specific measures for the retirement, with the purpose, on the one hand, to discharge the senior personnel in excess and, on the other, to enhance the effort for the recruitment.

The effect of such a measure on the units is still negligible.

Now, I would lilke to ask you a question about military women. The Army counts about 1,600 women in its ranks, that is the 5% of its strength. When did the



The renewal of the Belgian Army includes the replacement of light helicopters and the acquisition of transport helicopters.

recruitment of women begin? What have been the main problems related to the women's integration in the planet Army? What kind of difficulties did the voluntary service cause in this field?

The women's recruitment in the Belgian Army began in 1975. There have not been specific problems, except for the adaptation of the infrastructure and of some particular equipment articles. The voluntary service has not had any influence as, since the origin, women have been admitted only to the career Cadres.

The Army can dispose of a certain number of reserve units: now, how can all this be connected with the need of professional units, able to rapidly intervene in the new operational scenarios?

It is deceptive to think that a professional Army must dispose only of rapid intervention units. It is always better to have a force structure proportioned to the threat. The Gulf War in 1991 is an evident instance of it: its readiness



The Belgian Armed Forces still consider necessary to have a reserve available to face any kind of threat.

required several months, as well as the engagement of some US reserve units. Moreover, we cannot exclude more serious crises. For this reason, the Belgian Armed Forces still consider necessary to have a reserve available for every kind of threat.

The Belgian Army, like the Armies of the other NATO's countries, is strongly subjected to economies. How do you solve this problem?

The Army has always been strongly subjected to economies. The present budget restrictions have mainly led us to echelon the recruitment. as I have already said.

Such restriction has also led us to distribute the acquisition of new equipment over a longer period. With the withdrawal of our troops from Germany in the early 90's new investments in infrastructure arose as necessary; they too had to be distributed along a certain period of time. Some units therefore had to come back before their garrisons' infrastructure had been modified.

At the end of 1997 the Army fixed a list of equipments to get in a long time. Can you give us further details on these programs which will take the Army towards the 21st century?

The ageing of our equipments and the technological evolution have conditioned our priority choices. The renewal plans for 1997, in particular, concern:

- as for the vehicles: light wheeled vehicles, tank transporters and heavy recovery vehicles.
- •as for the armament: 120mm mortars.
- as for the uniforms: the new combat dress that the Army personnel will wear during the current year.

At the beginning of the 21st century, our priorities will be mainly oriented towards:

- the acquisition of the capability of fighting at night or in reduced visibility conditions;
- the replacement of armoured infantry and reconnaissance combat vehicles;
- the replacement of light helicopters and the acquisition of transport helicopters;
- •the modernization of our transport vehicles;
- the replacement of the antitank very-short-range missiles with short-range ones.

* Journalist

General Roger Maes was born in Bruxelles on April 25, 1938. After attending the junior high school at a humanistic institute, he continues his studies at the Royal Cadets School in Laeken, where he attends the Latin-Mathematics course. From 1956 to 1961, he attends the 111th Polytechnic Course, specialization Constructions, at the Royal Military School. After passing two years at the 6th Engineer Regiment stationed in Kassel, he is called at the 4th Regional Direction of Military Installations.

Since the end of 1965, he is on duty at the 51th Engineer Battalion as Staff Officer for maintenance. During this period, he attends a formation course at the French Engineer School in Angers, being qualified as "Mechanical Engineer Officer".

In 1970, General Maes is mandatorily moved to the Logistic Corps. After a short period of service at the Staff of the 2nd Logistic Group, he becomes Commanding Officer of the 4th Heavy Equipment Company in Werl.

Later, after serving at the Logistic Office of the 1st Corps, he becomes Director of Logistics. After attending the Senior Staff Officers Course at the Royal High Institute for Defense, he is called at the Personnel Office of the General Staff of the Army.

After having been in command at the Logistic Center no.2 in Antwerpen, he comes back to the General Staff of the Army as Chief of the Logistic Office. Promoted to Brigadier General in 1989, he becomes Chief of the Infrastructure Division of the Defense General Staff.

On March 26, 1993 he is promoted to Lieutenant General and on April 1st becomes the Commander of the National Forces. In the framework of the reorganization of the Belgian Armed Forces, he becomes the Commander of the Territorial Joint Command, formed on July 1st, 1995. On January 1st, 1996, he is appointed Chief of Staff of the Army. General Roger Maes is married and has two children.

The "Land Force" has met, with success, the challenge of renewal, imposed by budget restrictions.

Today Canada has a land instrument reduced but flexible, mobile and well trained, able to contront any type of threat.

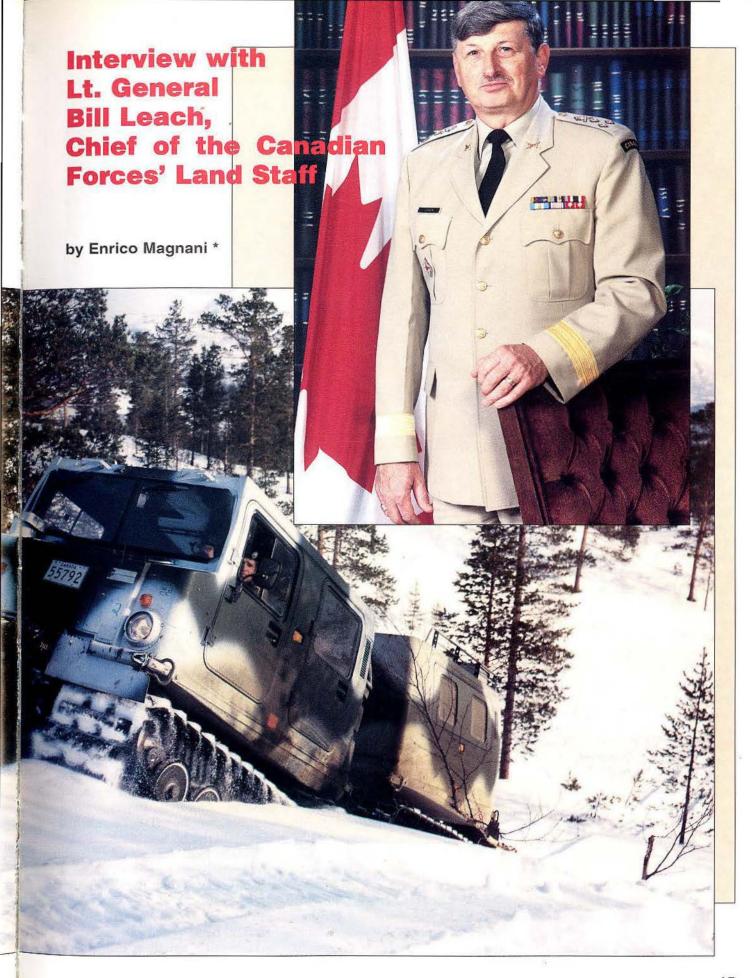
Lt. Gen. Bill Leach, Chief of the Land Staff has discussed with us these and other subjects.

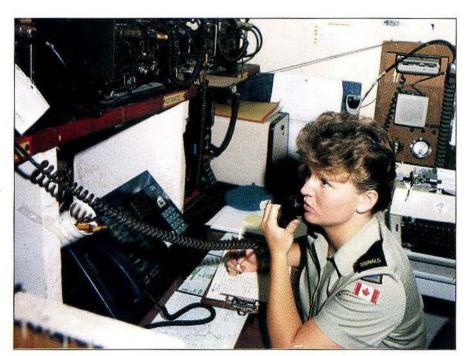
General, first of all, let's take a step backwards. It is by now almost thirty years that Canada has unified the three traditional Services into an integrated Force. What did this represent for the land forces?

Your first question concerns the unification of the three Services in an integrated Force, accomplished in 1966-1967. You are asking me what this choice represented for the Army. In all truth, I'll say that the decision to unify the Canadian Armed Forces was not well received by the military circles of the time. Nevertheless this step proved profitable for the Army and all the Canadian Forces, to the point that now nobody opposes it.

Besides, the unification has brought two great advantages. It has permitted to obtain important savings in the whole of the activities of the Armed Forces and to simplify the command and control from the political and strategic point of view. The unification has facilitated the fusion of some methods and functions that before performed separately by each of the three Services. Among the savings realized thanks to integration we can mention enlistment, acquisition and management of materials, administration of the personnel and basic training. As regards the improvements obtained from the Command and control point of view, the unification has enabled us to replace three distinct institutions with a single unified structure. As a consequence, this initiative facilitates us a great deal when it is a matter of supplying the







political leaders with clear and unified opinions about military questions and makes it easier to make the decisions and to implement them. The unification has more than simplified many things. As a matter of fact, after the integration, for every military question a single set of suggestions, instead of three, went through the various hierarchical stages and therefore a single set of decisions and orders came back

The constitution of integrated Armed Forces in some ways represented a decisive spur towards a Canadian national identity. Did this choice affect the traditions which represent the life-blood of an Army, ancient traditions such as the Scotch Regiments and the French speaking units of Quebec?

instead of three.

More or less complex questions can be posed as regards the effects of unification on the Army and its traditions. Many books, which uphold almost as many views, have already been written on the implications of the Army's unification. Undoubtedly the disappearance of the Canadian Army as a distinct service has affected the so-called "military culture". For instance. questions related to the personnel and the policies concerning the equipment do not pertain any only to the Army's hierarchy. Some maintain that this has produced a fundamental change in the procedures. The regimental system of the Army has been more or less preserved. especially as concerns armoured units, artillery and infantry.

The unification in itself did not cause the disappearance of the old Regiments such as the Black Watch (Royal Highlanders of Canada), the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, The Royal Canadian Regiment, Les Royal 22nd Regiment or Les Fusiliers Mont-Royal. To answer to the last part of the question, the unification did not cause the disappearance of traditions in the heart of the French-speaking units or the of Scottish descent. Similarly the unification did not do away with regimental flags or with the military marches of the armoured regiments, of the Artillery or Infantry.

Nevertheless, some will continue to maintain that, without an only-Army line hierarchy of Command,

For almost twenty years, all Canadian military, men and women, have been wearing the same green uniform, which brought about also a cultural change.

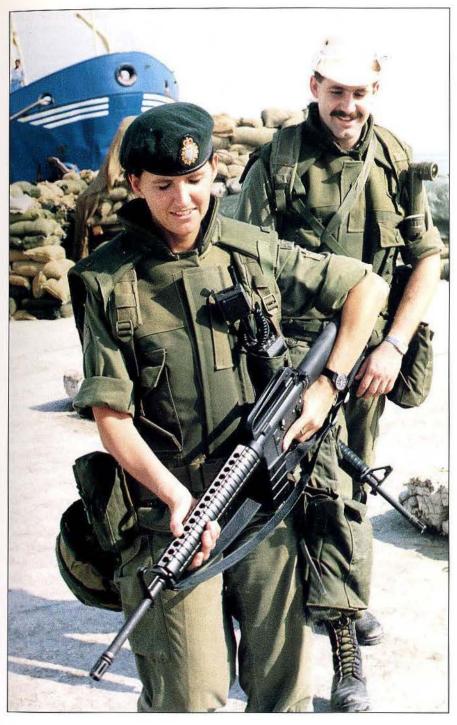
the centralization of the questions concerning personnel and equipment and the creation of joint organizations and structures have altered the military ethos in Canada, for all three Services.

During the last twenty years, all the Canadian military, men and women, have been wearing essentially the same green uniform, which has led to a change of culture. In someone's opinion, the common green uniform worn after the unification embodied its own culture. With time, a growing number of alterations have been authorized and made to the green uniform, specifically for the Army and its Regiments. For instance, in the case of the Canadian regiments of Scottish or Irish descent, the possibility to wear the kilt as official uniform, has permitted to keep their particular identity. Likewise, the armoured units have continued to wear their black beret.

The units that could afford it have also continued to wear their full dress as they did before the unification. Today, with the return of slightly differentiated uniforms, one can immediately distinguish land soldiers from sailors and airmen.

As each person has his own way of conceiving "the vital heart of an Army" it is almost impossible to probe into the question of the impact of unification on the Army without writing a book of a hundred pages (or many books of several hundred pages; those written by Douglas Bland are certainly the best on the subject).

But it must not be forgotten that thirty years have elapsed since the Canadian Armed Forces were unified. During this period, very important social and strategic changes have occurred which have led to a substantial



reduction in the budgets destined to defence. Due to these factors, that have very little to do with the unification, the Armed Forces (and the Army component) are much reduced as compared with 1968. It becomes therefore extremely difficult to tell whether the change undergone by the Army since 1968 should be ascribed to the unification or to the other important influences

mentioned before.

For some years the budget of the Canadian defence has been subjected to heavy cuts. What are the lines adopted to maintain the credibility of the military instrument, given the reduced financial resources?

The budget of defence underwent important reductions since the end

of the cold war. As a consequence, the Ministry of National Defencee (MDN) and the Canadian Forces (FC) had to devise different systems to meet the challenges related to the changes brought about in the strategic sector. In order to maintain the credibility of the Ministry, both at home and abroad, we have given priority to operations in all the initiatives of change undertaken. Although a certain number of key-factors have concurred to our success, two of our most important initiatives have concerned first of all rationalization of the infrastructure and the reorganization of the command and control structure. As regards infrastructure, it was clear that due to dimension and age, they could not be managed with the resources remained at the disposal of the Ministry. Consequently we had to take a certain number of initiatives aimed at rationalizing what we could afford and what we could not. The most important repercussion of this measure was the closing of some bases in Europe and at home. Besides these suppressions, the MDN/FC continues to study other possibilities of diversification of the ways of supplying the services regarding the support not essential to the military activities. This will enable us to devote most of our limited resources to the maintenance of our combat capabilities.

Following the reduction of effectives and infrastructure in 1995 the Ministry launched a large initiative of reorganization of the Command and control. with the purpose of reducing to a half the number of the resources employed for the functions performed by the Headquarters. project has important repercussions on the working methods of the MDN and FC and will continue to have them along the years. Besides the changes that were, and will be, brought to the structure, the Ministry continues to make a striking progress in the creation and



putting into practice of methods for the management of the resources. In particular, the planning of the activities and the acquisition of instruments that measure the efficiency and verify the costs for every specific activity contribute to improve our ability to manage more activities with less resources.

We have not finished yet, but we are going in the right direction!

It is equally interesting to note that the Government of Canada has adopted the activity-planning concept in order to make it a key-element of its renewed system of expense-management. The officialization of the reports on the projects published last Spring and those on the efficiency published last Autumn by all Ministries should considerably contribute to improve the Government's management of

resources. The MDN/FC represents the most important Federal Ministry and has committed itself to become file-leader in the creation and implementation of initiatives for a better management of the resources.

The Land Forces Command is a numerically reduced force albeit with high professional and technological qualities. This inevitably entails making recourse to reserve forces which, in their turn, must be equipped and trained in order to be interoperational with the regular forces. How do you tackle this problem?

The Canadian Forces adopted the concept of Total Force with the White Book on Defence of 1987. This concept can be defined as follows: a combination of members of the regular Service and of the Reserve, which constitutes an economic and polyvalent combat potential, at the wanted training level.

In December 1996, the Army Command indicated that the reason of existence of the Land Force's Reserve was to be a mobilization force in case of conflict but its main task was to augment the regular Force in times of threat.

The concept of Total Force shows that the Army's practice is to train the regular or the reserve soldier according to similar instruction and operational standards; owing to the fact that the reservists of the Canadian Forces are volunteers and have no obligation to serve, this practice functions relatively well as far as basic training is concerned. When time becomes a critical factor and training more complex, the success is more moderate for obvious reasons of

The concept of "Total Force" shows that the Canadian Army proceeds in the training of the regular soldier or reservist according to similar training and operational rules, while maintaining, at the same time, its polyvalent combat capability.

times and costs.

During the first year of service, the reservist devotes on the average almost 100 days to his basic and specialization training. After that he will have the possibility to complete his training for 65 days a year, especially during the weekends from September to May and in a single period of 14 days in Summer.

A contingent deployed on an operational theatre can include up to 20% of reservists. The percentage of the Reserve depends on the type of mission, the speed of deployment, the need to maintain the integrity of the Regular Force and on the time available to train the reservists. The preparation consists in adding the reinforcements of the Reserve to the unit of the Regular Force for a period of pre-deployment training of ninety days. The reservists carry out the same training as their colleagues of the Regular Force. This predeployment training and the distribution of the reservists throughout the unit encourage a complete integration of the two elements in a quite efficient operational force.

The Italian Army has committed itself to an effort of structural and operational reorganization, in order to create a streamlined, flexible instrument, which could be easily integrated within international contingents. What are the most important tasks which the Land Forces Command is planning or that are already in progress?

It is a very wide question. The most important task that the Land Force has to carry out is the



maintenance of a polyvalent combat capability. This goal will not be attained without difficulty. Given the present financial situation and the absence, at the moment, of a real threat for Canada, public opinion is less inclined to support war plans. Moreover, the nature of the missions and tasks that the Land Force was called to carry out during the last years - generally, low-intensity peacekeeping operations -

did not allow us to devote the little time and the scarce resources at our disposal to maintain an adequate degree of preparation, in view of high-intensity operations. Despite these challenges, the Service retains the main task to keep its polyvalent combat capability and will be able to surmount all obstacles to be up to it. In addition to this commitment, the Army must concentrate on other activities that go from the





modernization of the Service to its financial reorganization, without forgetting the improvement of operational training and the initiatives aimed at obtaining more savings in the non-essential activities.

From 1949 to 1993 the Canadian soldiers have been a guarantee of the bonds between Europe and North America, by training and cooperating with their NATO comrades. What is

today the contribution of the Canadian land forces to the Atlantic Alliance?

The commitment of the Canadian army to NATO remains as before. Since our withdrawal from the European theatre, we have continued to keep at NATO's disposal a mechanized brigade and a light combat group. These two Major Units are available for NATO's contingency plans. have Moreover. we similar engagements connected with the



The Land Force Command has gained a vast experience in peacekeeping operations, after the changes in the political conditions due to the end of the cold war.

defence of our continent, jointly with our American allies (CUSRPG -Canada US Regional Planning Group).

The Land Forces Command has matured a vast experience in peace-keeping operations. What are the doctrinal and political lessons learned from its frequent participation in peace-keeping missions under different flags?

The most important lesson is very simple. Only a soldier trained for war can play an effective role during a peacekeeping mission. In reality only war training gives the military the knowledge that will enable them to carry out their mandate during a peace mission. At political level, it must be evidenced that since the end of the cold war the conditions on the terrain have changed a great deal. The two former superpowers are no more in a position to intervene with a mediatorial role like they did in the past. The belligerents are free to act as they choose and can now employ military and political means which are dificult to control in particular situations (such as, for instance, that of former Jugoslavia).

The operations in Jugoslavia and Somalia have taken the shape of real conflicts rather than peacekeeping operations. What do you think will be the future of these two operational profiles, initially opposed?

You are mentioning two aspects which have both their own reason to exist if considered in their respective contexts. The key of



their success resides in the definition of the tasks in relation to the problems encountered. A task well defined and carried out by well trained and well equipped troops will have a considerable operational capability - therefore these two aspects have certainly their place in the present geopolitical context.

With the fall of the Berlin Wall the politico-strategic international scenarios have changed and NATO's Strategy concept is being challenged. As a consequence, there is the need to find new training procedures for the military cadres. What are the present initiatives taken by the Land Forces Command to prepare the personnel?

Since the 1st Canadian Division left Europe we have noticed a considerable increase in our operational rythms, particularly in former Jugoslavia and Africa. This increase has produced a reduction in the quantity of efforts which we could devote to the training aimed in maintaining the polyvalent interservice capabilities. In fact we have carried out only few joint or combat group exercises, except when these were part of the requirements of operational training. As a consequence, at present the Army is training to recover certain capabilities which have been diminishing and emphasizes again interservice training, and plans have been made to provide the equipment and rules which permit to carry it out. For example we are now experimenting a set of norms of combat aptitude. destined to the Commanders for the assessment and improvement of the efficiency on the field. We also have a conceptual model of a Canadian Centre of manoeuvre simulation to evaluate the effects of the various

weapons and improve the collective capabilities.

Regarding the programme of individual training, we believe it necessary to strengthen the quality and quantity controls in this period of curtailment of resources.

Moreover, various initiatives are being carried out by the General Staff in order to optimize our investments, in relation to the resources available we are still convinced that we can form highly qualified and capable soldiers, among the best in the world, and we have accepted the challenge being careful to give our men an efficient preparation, in view of the roles they have to play, both in wartime and within operations other than war.

The Canadian military effort is oriented not only towards the Atlantic scenario but also to the



Pacific. Will the increased strategic importance of the Asiatic area, together with the great tensions that occur there, entail a reorientation of the Canadian Land instrument?

Excepting the role played in the Korean war, the Canadian military participation in the security of the Asia-Pacific area after WWII was limited mainly to a contribution of personnel in the various observation and peacekeeping missions. particularly in Pakistan, Vietnam and Cambodia. After the cold war, the government of Canada regained interest in this area and. has hinted that the Ministry of National Defence has a key-role to play there. Nevertheless, this role could be somehow different from the traditional one, that which up to now MDN has carried out in Europe, principal region of its

commitment abroad.

At the same time the MDN role in the Asia-Pacific area remains presently limited by two keyfactors: the cuts in the Defence budget and in the structure of the Service, and a new world-level task formulated in the White Book of Defence in 1994. If MDN is to sustain Canadas' goals in the Asia-Pacific sector under the reservation of these two conditions, the Ministry will have to make well-reasoned choices on how and where it is going to employ its more and more limited resources.

Canada's interest in the Asia-Pacific area is mainly economic. As a matter of fact, the Canadian government has learnt that a country's influence depends increasingly on the solidity of its economic relations. Consequently, the promotion of prosperity and employment is at the core of the Government's cares and is its first

objective as far as foreign policy is concerned. The trade relations that it is going to establish with the countries of the Asia-Pacific area are therefore essential. In Canada, prosperity and employment increasingly depend on trade. Although 80% of Canada's trade exchange is done with the United States, the greatest growth, both for Canada and for the rest of the world, depends on the flourishing economies of a small number of Asiatic countries. From now to the year 2020, predictably the region will have seven of the ten most important world economies and will possess 60% of the world market. Canada at present holds only 1,5% of the market in the Asia-Pacific area.

The MDN presence in the region remains generally modest, with the exception of the relations of bilateral defence with the United States, Australia and New Zealand. The Canadian Army is carrying out a programme of individual training capable of shaping highly qualified and competent soldiers, in view of their future operational roles.

Despite its participation to the political development of the Regional Forum of ANASE (FRA), Canada does not belong to any official military alliance in the area, if one excludes the Canada-US cooperation for the defence of North America and the sharing of responsibility regarding maritime North Pacific frontier. The relations with Australia and New Zealand constitute extension of the historical bonds of Canada with the Commonwealth countries, together with some quadrilateral provisions concerning the exchange of information.

The Canadian military presence in the Asia-Pacific area is ensured by seven Military Attachés who are associated with 13 countries, with the most part of which Canada has maintained bilateral relations, through rare visits made by authorities, a modest programme of exchange and liaison, some visits for technical aid and sharing of experiences within the sphere of peacekeeping in the world. Canada partecipates with Australia, Japan, the Republic of Korea and recently with Chile, also in the RIMPAC exercise, organized by the US Navy every two years. Moreover, it regularly participates to other exercises, mainly naval ones, with the United States in the Pacific.

With its programme of support to military instruction (PAIM), MDN has given to many countries of the Asia-Pacific area the possibility to send their personnel to attend courses in Canada. Bangladesh, Malaysia, Nepal, Thailand, Singapore and South Korea are among them; the last two participate according to a cost-recovery principle (owing to their high GNP per capita). The PAIM



funds have been spent for a series of activities that go from the instruction of flight personnel to the peacekeeping courses offered by the Pearson Centre.

Besides PAIM, other exchange programmes have been organized with Australia, India, Malaysia and Pakistan, although the last three programmes were suspended because of a reduction in the number of places for foreign students at the Canadian Forces' Command and Staff College.

*Journalist

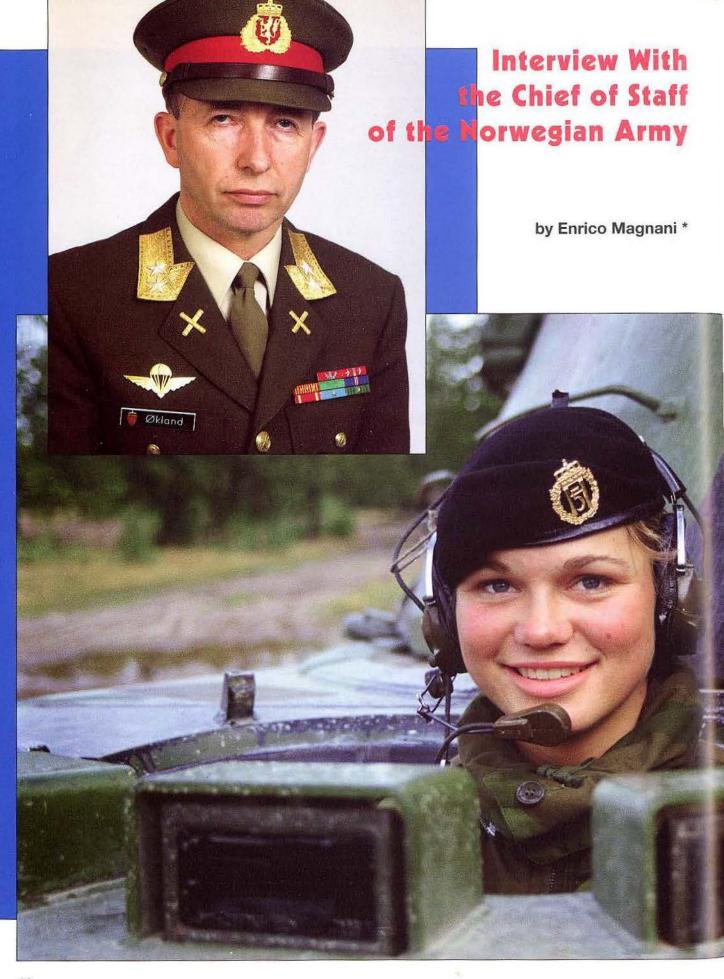
Lt. Gen. Bill Leach was born in Sarnia, Ont. His military career began in 1960 at the Collège Militaire Royal de Saint-Jean and he graduated from the Royal Military College of Canada in Kingston in 1965 with a degree in economics and commerce. In 1968 he attended the Canadian Forces' Staff College.

Lt. Gen. Leach served in Germany and in the Near East.

In Germany, among other positions, he held that of Officer Commanding the National Support Element for Allied Command Europe Mobile Force (Land). From 1975 to 1977 ha was Deputy Assistant Quartermaster General (Operations), 4 th UK Armoured Division, British Army on the Rhine (BAOR). He served as an instructor in the Royal Canadian Ordnance Corps School, Montreal, and held several important positions in finance, supply and operational logistics.

In 1986, Lt. Gen. Leach was presented with the Order of Military

In 1986, Lt. Gen. Leach was presented with the Order of Military Merit. During the Gulf War, he was Director of Logistics Plans and Operations. In the recent past, he has been involved in major change initiatives, particularly in the materiel sector. On october 13, 1995, he was appointed Deputy Commander of Land Force Command and Commander, 1st Canadian Division. On September 24, 1997, he was appointed Chief of the Land Staff. Lt. Gen. Leach is married and has three children.



NORWAY THE NEW ARMY



Also the Norwegian Army faces the challenge of a renewal, made necessary by budget limitations and changes in the politico-strategic scenario. The objective is to obtain an instrument reduced in size but flexible, mobile and well equipped, able to face any type of threat. Maj. Gen. Sverre Økland, Chief of Staff of the Norwegian Army, discusses these subjects with us.

What is the present situation of the Norwegian Army? What are the perspectives and what major programmes are planned?

Since 1993, the Norwegian Army has been reduced by almost 50% in terms of number of units and total personnel strength. Today we have a total of 6 brigades, from the previous 13. One might say that the Army is reduced in quantity, but this is compensated by the quality of the fighting forces, which is substantially enhanced.

The restructuring of the remaining units is in good progress. The new war-time organization of our main combat unit, the 6th Division, was

finalized, by April 1, 1997, and put into effect by Jan 1, 1998.

The Norwegian Army will not be able to modernize all of its present units. New equipment is concentrated in the 6th Division and units earmarked for Peace Support Operations. The rest of the Army table of equipment is made up by the equipment that the Army already possessed during the Cold War order of battle of thirteen brigades. In addition, as a minimum, three independent brigades will be modernized with new C2IS. Great effort is also being put into weapon simulation systems and tactical training simulation systems. This in order to enable an organized transition from an



A column of motor sledges. The maintenance of high off-road mobility in difficult orographic conditions is a high priority for the Norwegian Army.

Attrition-Warfare-based army to an army oriented towards Manoeuvre Warfare.

The Norwegian Army will use approx. 2,5 billion NOK each year on new equipment in the period 1999-2004. This is planned to increase to more than 3 billion NOK each year from 2005.

Thiss is heavily dependent on the efforts made to reduce the present O&M costs (approx. 4,5 billion per year).

The major ongoing procurement

programmes are the following:

- CV 9030 infrantry combat vehicle (103 pieces);
- 12 MLRS-systems;
- digital VHF-radios (Multi-role):
- army C2IS;

Major planned procurement programmes:

- New MBT (Main Battle Tank);
- Medium range anti tank weapons;
- · NASAMS anti aircraft system;
- · light infantry terrain vehicles;
- replacement of the M-109 artillery system.

The Norwegian Army has a long experience in peace supporting operations, from Korea to Bosnia. Today, Norwegian soldiers together with other Sandinavian, Polish and Baltic comrades, are serving in the NORPOL Brigade in SFOR. What does this mean for the Norwegian

Army and the participation in peace-keeping operations?

First and foremost the participation gives officers, men and women of the Army a unique opportunity to serve within an operational multinational NATO-led Army Corps formation. This gives us the possibility to draw experience from the practical application of NATO principles, doctrines and regulations in an ongoing operation. This will benefit the individual, as well as the Army as a whole.

Secondly, it gives the Army the possibility to gain more experience from the use of national organization, training-programs and equipment.

However, the participation



Two Norwegian soldiers with the aiming/guiding system of the antitank «Hellfire» missile.

pulls huge resources from our national committments, thus there will be a continuous evaluation of the balance between benefit and cost.

After the establishment of the Telemark battalion, Norway is a full participant in the Allied Mobile Force, the most important element of NATO's Immediate Reaction Forces.

Will we in the future see Norwegian soldiers training in Italy?

The Telemark Battalion participated in exercise Dynamic

Mix and Ardent Ground in Italy last year. The current exercise schedule of the Commander AMF (Land) is subject to approval by SHAPE and to the fixed priorities.

Today, there are no plans for the Telemark Battalion to participate in training in Italy in the near future.

Until now, the Norwegian Army has not assigned combat units to the ARRC. Will this situation change in the future, and will Norwegian soldiers take part in other units of the ARRC structure?

Norway has made commitments for participation in NATO's reaction forces. According to the White Paper of 1997-98 from the MoD, we intend to maintain the level of the present contribution. However, the White Paper still says that the question of new commitments to NATO's multinational force structure may be a matter of judgement. Initially we may look for possibilities to place minor new formations at the disposal of ARRC or AMF(L). Norway may also participate with officers in HO ARRC.

During the Cold War years, the Norwegian Army has been NATO's first line defence against the Warsaw Pact military structure. Will the fact that Russia is a fundamental member of the new Euroatlantic security system change the architecture of the Norwegian Army?

During the Cold War, the Norwegian Army had a concept



and architecture based on Attrition Warfare. The aim was to keep as much as possible of the territory intact by delaying an invader, in order to buy time for Allied reinforcements to arrive.

This concept and the Army architecture have changed fundamentally. The Army initiated in 1993 a process of implementing a new concept based on Manoeuvre Warfare. Education of officers and training of units have both been changed substantially in order to be in line with the new concept. Furthermore, the Army Procurement Plan is now concentrating on relevant equipment for a manoeuvre-warfare-oriented army.

The main task of the Norwegian Army is, as the land component of the Norwegian Armed Forces, to protect and defend the sovereignty of Norway, and to contribute to a credible anti-invasion force in one part of the country, for the time being initially located in Northern Norway.

In a traditional invasion scenario, Norway does still relay on NATO reinforcements.

One part of the still ongoing process is the establishment of a new army doctrine. The document Tactical Doctrine of the

Army will be finalized in 1998, and is closely co-ordinated with the ongoing joint process of establishing a new national joint doctrine.

Sustaining a credible antiinvasion capacity is still the main objective of the Norwegian Army, while emphasis is also put on the participation in international Peace Support Operations.

Besides the co-operation with NATO, the Norwegian Army has a long tradition of co-operating with the other Scandinavian countries.

Has the joining of the Partnership for Peace program by two neutral countries, Sweden and Finland, changed some aspects of this cooperation?

The Norwegian Army has for a number of years enjoyed a fruitful co-operation with both Sweden and Finland on a bilateral basis, covering a wide range of activities. These include exchange of students at Staff Colleges, exchange-visits betwen Military Academies, military sports competitions and meetings and conferences at General Staff level. Furthermore, a comprehensive co-operation has been established on inter-Nordic purchases of military equipment.

Above.

A team of riflemen of the «Telemark» battalion disembarks from a 6x6 AX 180 wheeled vehicle. The battalion, normally assigned to the Allied Mobile Force (Land), is now included in the SFOR «Nordpol» Brigade.

Facing page

«Leopard» 1A1NO tank in a live-firing exercise.

The Nordic countries have also enjoyed a mutual beneficial cooperation on the subject of Nordic participation in UN missions. A formal body, NORCAPS, has been established to co-ordinate the nations' contributions. The more recent SHIRBRIG (Stand By High Readiness Brigade) for UN operations, has given co-operation even another angle. The Nordic countries have also obliged to conduct annually «Nordic Peace» exercises. Last year's exercise was held in Norway, and this year will take place in Sweden. In general, the introduction of Sweden and Finland into Partnership for Peace has strengthened and given new aspects to an already well established co-operation between neighbouring countries.

The Norwegian Army has increased the number of the professional component and reduced the number of conscripts.

Will you follow this path in order to have a fully professional army, or will the number of conscripts remain?

The Norwegian Army has no professional units, although we have some professional soldiers.

Conscription plays an important role in our country, and will still be one of the main elements in our Army.

All male citizens physically and mentally fit have service obligations from the age of 19 until the age of 44, females may volunteer. Most conscripts receive 12 months of initial training.

Some get less. On completion of



the initial training, the conscript will be discharged and assigned to a specific unit. Until the age of 44, the conscript will regularly be called up for refresher training and field exercises.

We intend to stick to the conscript system, and there will not be any professional Army in Norway in the years to come. Solutions other than conscription will not provide the necessary number of soldiers and will not obtain support from the population.

An almost all-professional force needs strong commitment in the social field as well as home programs, salary, educational programs etc.

What will the Norwegian Army do in order to help its professional personnel?

Some years ago the Norwegian Army started focusing on the officers' families. The Army wants the officers to move with their family when transferred. The Army Staff focuses on four issues:

- Educational possibilities for the spouses;
- Job possibilities for the spouses.
 The Norwegian system is built on a two-income family, and the

families' economy is mainly based on two incomes.

- Kindergarten we try to make sure there is a kindergarten for children between age 1 and 6.
- A satisfactory housing standard.

Female personnel have been in the ranks of the Norwegian Army for several years.

If possible, could you give a short history and analysis of this component, and what are the perspectives of women in the Norwegian Army?

Today women are fully integrated in all fields in the Norwegian Army. The integration started in 1977, when the Officer Candidate School, non combat sectors, was opened to women. In 1983, the ordinary initial service was opened to women in voluntary terms, and in 1984 all positions were opened to women. The present highest rank for a female in our Army is major, but in the NATO/UN service we have some temporary lieutenant-colonels.

In 1997 the Norwegian Armed Forces established a strategic plan for gender equality. This plan is focusing mainly on two important issues:

How to make women apply for

Officer Candidate School.

 How to make female officers choose the military as a career.

This plan is our working document and we hope will help us to reach the aim of 7% women in the Armed Forces in the year of 2005.

In comparison with the defence budgets of the other NATO members, the Norwegian Defence Budget has maintained its Cold War level, and you are still aiming to increase the procurement share of the total budget. How is this possible?

As stated in the response to your first question, in order to be able to increase the share of the budget spent on acquisition, we have to reduce our O&M costs. Defence Budget will probably be maintained at its present level, in the years to come. Taking into account the continuosly rising cost of the new equipment, the only way we have of financing our procurements of new equipment is by reducing the O&M costs of the peace-time army. This will be achieved by a further downsizing of the peacetime level of the Army. This is not an easy process, but I remain confident that we will



Members of the crew of an 81 mm mortar installed on the back of a BV206 tracked vehicle.

Homeguard has proved its value for local authorities in peacetime emergencies.

Like the other services, the Homeguard is led by a Chief of Staff.

The 18 district commanders are all professional officers. In wartime, though, the land Homeguard will operate under the command of the Army territorial commanders.

The Homeguard share of annual military spending is less than 5%.

The increasing professionalism of the Armed Forces enhances the role of the reserve elements.

Are technology development and financial costs real obstacles for the interoperability between regular and reserve forces?

The Norwegian defence concept is based upon mobilization units. The Norwegian army has no professional units.

It is vital for us to have this in mind when we acquire new technology or adopt new tactics. There seems to be a trend in new military technology towards simplification and serviceability, which reduces the need for lengthy training.

When developing new materiel, we take in consideration the mobilization units' capability to learn to use the specific materiel through refresher training.

In Norway we also emphasize the use of training techniques supported by technology and simulators. This enables us to reduce training costs.

Since we don't have professional forces, by your term, there are no interoperability problems.

Will the reshuffling of the NATO system of command, control and communication -

achieve our aim of modernizing our Army according to the plans laid down.

The National Guard is a very important element of the Norwegian defence system.

What is the history of this institution, and what are its relations with society and the military world?

The Norwegian Homeguard was established after WWII.

The mission of the Homeguard is to secure the Total Defence mobilization and to suport the Army, Navy and Air Force in their operations.

With less than four hours callup time and yearly training of 83,000 officers and men in all parts of the country, the Homeguard is truly living up to its slogan: «Everywhere - anytime».

The Land Homeguard mainly consists of platoon and company size units, while the Naval Homeguard patrols our coastal waters with a large number of minor vessels. The Air Homeguard will perform airbase defence operations.

On several occasions the decentralized organization of the A CV90 tracked vehicle proceeding on the difficult Norwegian terrain.

first with the fusion of AFNORTH with UKAIR and the consequent establishment of AFNORTHWEST, and now its integration in AFCENT, change in some measure the contribution of the Norwegian Army to security and stability in Northern Europe?

The fact that the NATO command structure has been greatly reduced over the last ten years is merely an adaptation to the changed security environment, and to the new and different tasks foreseen as a result of that.

The Norwegian Army's contribution to NATO is not influenced by these changes, even though NATO's new missions may increase the demands on our reaction forces.

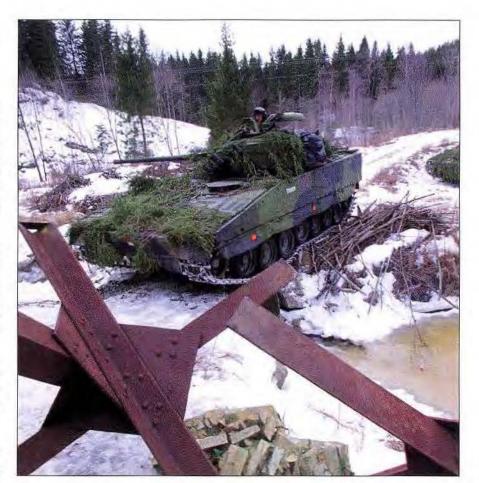
In the past, NATO emergency plans carmarked relevant forces (US, British, Canadian and German units and soldiers), for the Defence of Norway.

Has the new strategic situation in the northern region changed the Allied effort for the area?

In line with the earlier concepts, the main contribution is American, with the Norway Air Landed Marine Air Ground Task Force, NAL MAGTF. In addition, different units of the Alliance's Reaction Forces and two artillery battalions (GE and US) are in the NATO Composite Force (NCF).

The United Kingdom and the Netherlands have central functions in the reinforcement plans for Norway, including the UK/NL Amphibious force.

The Allied Command Europe Mobile Force (Land) - AMF(L) will be a primary crisis management tool in our region.



Maj. Gen. Sverre Økland was born on Jan 4, 1941.

He attended the Military Preparatory School, and obtained the Military Matriculation Degree; the Military Academy, the Camberley Army Staff College; the Royal College of Defence Studies in the United Kingdom.

Promoted to the rank of Cavalry Lieutenant in 1966, he served at the Cavalry School and the Reconnaissance Company of the North Norway Brigade.

As a Captain, he served as an instructor at the Military Academy.

After his promotion to Major, he was Secretary to H.R.H. the Crown Prince and Operations Officer of the Troms Land Defence District.

From 1984 to 1987, Lt. Col. Økland served at the Office of the Inspector of Cavalry, and commanded an Armoured Battalion of the North Norway Brigade.

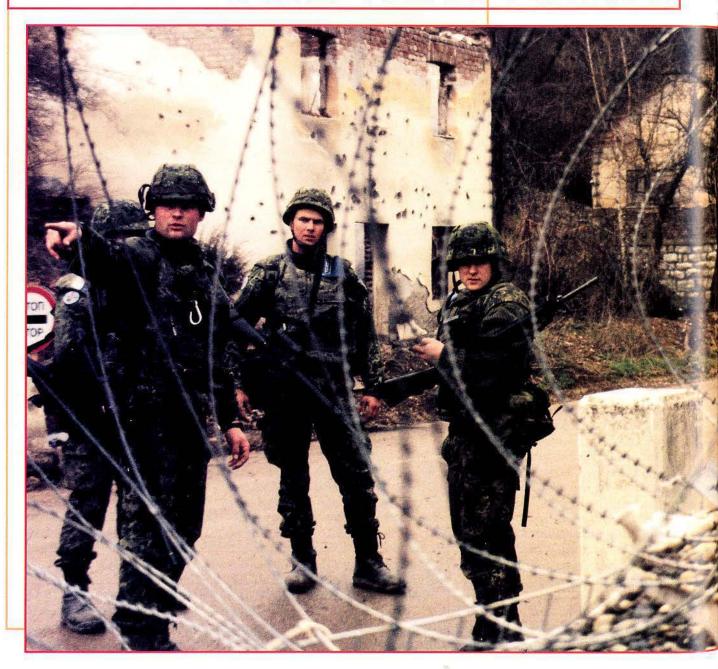
In 1987, promoted to the rank of Colonel, commanded the Cavalry Regiment South until 1989, when, promoted Brigadier General, assumed the position of Chief of the Army Staff at the Headquarters Defence Command Norway.

In 1992 Maj Gen. Økland was given Command of the Land Command Vestlandet and in 1996 was appointed Chief of Staff of the Army.

Major General Sverre Økland is decorated with the National Service Medal and the Defence Service Medal with two Stars.

* Journalist

THE NEW ARMY



Interview with General Christian Hvidt Chief of the Danish Defence Staff

by di Enrico Magmani *



The new politico-strategic scenarios ensued from the end of the bipolar system have had a strong influence on the Danish Army. Therefore, a difficult rationalization process is now under way, in order to enable the land forces to assume a more and more incisive role in humanitarian and peace-support operations.

This and other issues are expounded to "Rivista Militare" by Gen. Christian Hvidt, Chief of the Defence Staff.

Today the Danish Army is a military instrument limited in size, but with high capabilities. How will the land forces be organized at the beginning of next century?

Due to Denmark's membership of NATO, the Danish Army has a long tradition for extensive military co-operation with other nations in Europe. Situated at the gateway to the Baltic Sea region, during the Cold War Denmark was very dependent on NATO co-operation and trained regularly with the dedicated reinforcements.

The Danish Army was - and still is - connected to NATO's command structure through Allied Command Baltic Approaches (BALTAP). BALTAP was politically approved in the autumn of 1961 and established in January 1962. BALTAP is a joint command responsible for all military operations in the area covering Denmark, Schleswig-Holstein north of the river Elbe, parts of Skagerrak, Kattegat, the Danish Straits, and the Baltic Sea.

Subordinate to BALTAP are two army corps: Allied Land Forces Zealand (LANDZEALAND) and Allied Land Forces Jutland and Schleswig-Holstein (LANDJUT).

During the cold war, the mission of LANDZEALAND was to defend the Zealand archipelago with Danish forces and allied reinforcements. Through the years we have enjoyed participation in NATO exercises of the Italian Alpini battalion assigned to ACE Mobile Forces (Land) - AMF(L).

Corps LANDJUT consists of both Danish and German land forces. The mission of LANDJUT - consisting of one German and one Danish division, incl. support troops - was basically to defend the Jutland peninsula and Schleswig-Holstein.

The changes in the European and global security situation after the collapse of the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact have had great influence on the Danish

Army.

The overall political directives for the modernization of the Danish Defence have been formulated in the Defence Act from December 1993. The tasks of the Danish Army have widened from the traditional regional role to include a global dimension. In accordance with the Defence Act, army contributions to conflict prevention, peace support, and humanitarian operations on a global scale have been given high priority during recent years. The effect of this has been a modernization of the army. including adjustments of the army structure, training and operational and multinational activities. Although substantial and still increasing weight is given to international relations activities. political and authorities have stated that the main task of the Danish Armed Forces still is to maintain Denmark's sovereignty and guarantee the continued existence and integrity of the nation. The modernization and development of the army is still in progress. The modernization program is carried out in accordance with Danish foreign policy and defence policy.

The aim of the restructuring guided through the successive Defence Agreements between the

political parties - has also been to ensure the financial basis for participation in peace support operations, adequate training and exercises, and enhanced material standard, primarily for our contributions to international tasks. This financial basis is ensured by means of reductions in both the wartime structure and in the peacetime organization. The peacetime organization has been reduced by amalgamation of regiments and army schools as well as by disbandment of peacetime and infrastructure facilities, i.e. barracks, depots etc.

The wartime structure consists of:

- a light recce unit, assigned to AMF(L). This was the unit that participated in the Italian-led operation ALBA in 1997.
- the Danish Reaction Brigade (DRB) with 4,500 soldiers;
- · a company for electronic warfare;
- long Range Reconnaissance Patrols from the army's Special Operations Forces (SOF), all assigned to the ACE Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC).
- the Danish Division (DDIV), composed of divisional troops and three mechanized brigades;
- troops for LANDJUT (CLJ), including a signal battalion, an engineer battalion, and an artillery battalion;
- the Jutland Combat Group (JCG), a brigade-size formation, partially mechanized with tanks and armoured personnel carriers, assigned to COMBALTAP.
- allied Land Forces Zealand, which include corps troops, the Danish Reaction Brigade in its national role, two combat groups (CG), and Military Regions V - VII;
- four Military Regions (MILRGN) of the Jutland-Funen area; with local defence battalions and various support units.

Integrated in the Military Regions is the Home Guard, with a total of around 66,000 men and women.

The peacetime structure is tailored to the production of units to the wartime structure

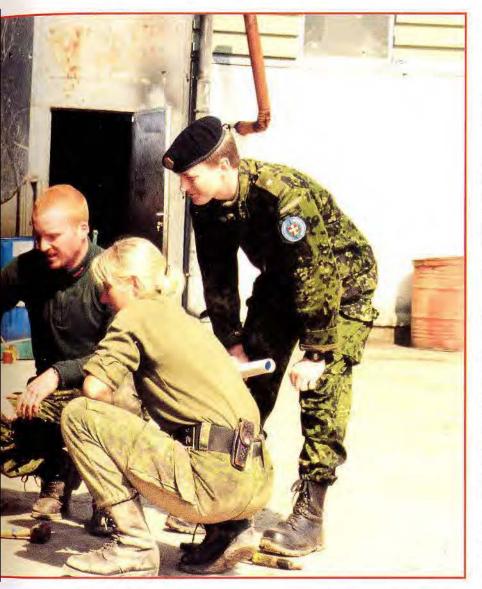


and to plan and carry out international missions.

Consequently, in peacetime the Army is organized with elements for production of units for the wartime structure, i.e. schools and regiments. And, on the other hand, elements for «operational planning and advanced training of the units».

The peacetime structure contains also the Army Aviation and camps with training facilities. The overall management of international missions is conducted by the Army Operational Command (AOCDEN).

The Danish government is currently making a study over the possible future structure of the Armed Forces. A white paper is expected to be finished by the



Female personnel are employed in all Services and Branches of the Danish Armed Forces.

main battle tanks of the type Leopard 2 are under procurement.

In the ARRC structure there is a reconnaissance Brigade, which includes a long-range special-forces Danish company. How will this unit cooperate with the other formations of the Brigade, where there are also Canadian specialists and a company of the Italian «Col Moschin» 9th Regiment?

Denmark's contribution to Allied Command Europe (ACE) Rapid Reaction Corps also comprises Long Range Reconnaissance Patrols (LRRP). These patrols are part of the Danish Jaegerkorps, a special Forces Unit which dates back to 1785. In its present form, the Danish Jaegerkorps was established in 1961. It consists of three detachments operating in small patrols. The selection of personnel is based on a rigorous 16-week selection course. From each course of approximately 120 applicants only 4 - 5 have the ability to get through the test. Therefore, it is a very exclusive «club», and over the years only a very limited number have been able to pass the test and become Jaegers.

The LRRP takes part in a very extensive exchange and training program with exercises especially with the Italian 9th Regiment Incursori «Col Moschin» and the British Special Air Service (SAS). In the framework of ARRC an annual exercise series called ASSEGAI EYES is conducted with the participation of British, Italian and Danish Special Forces. The latest exercise in 1997 was conducted in Denmark.

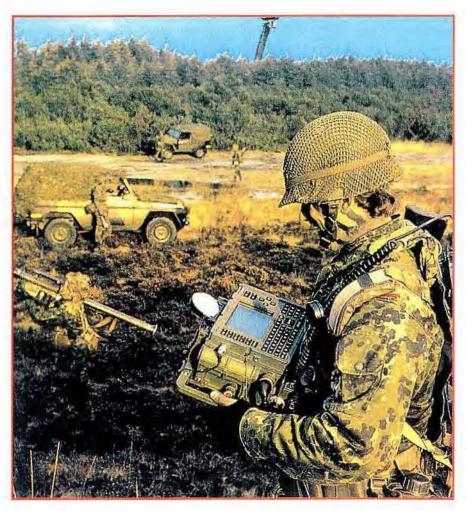
LANDJUT was the first multinational NATO Corps. How is this Headquarters organized, and what are its subordinate units?

end of 1998. So far, there are no conclusions, but it is stated that the focus of the Army in the future will remain on the ability to take part in international peace support operations.

The Danish Army assigns to NATO a considerable part of its operational capability. The recently established Reaction Brigade, besides being earmarked for out-of-area interventions, has been assigned to a British Division of ARRC. Has the Brigade already reached its full operational capability?

The Danish Reaction Brigade is the main Danish contribution to NATO's reaction forces. It was established on 1 July 1994. This event marked a new role of the Danish Army with emphasis on international missions under the auspices of NATO as well as the UN and OSCE. A rather unconventional and financially deliberate method was applied for the establishment of this quite considerable stand-by force. Recruiting campaigns have been conducted to reach the brigade organizational strength of approximately 4,550 and the brigade was fully operational by 1 January 1997.

In the present Defence Agreement it is foreseen that the brigade will be further strengthened in order to improve the security of the personnel and the combat power. Thus new armoured vehicles and



It is a tribute to the present political stability of Western Europe that a multinationally manned Allied headquarters has existed in the Northern German town of Rendsburg since the end of World War II. In its present form, the headquarters' history dates back to 1961 at which time an agreement on the creation of a new command organization for the defence of the Baltic Approaches was reached. As a consequence, the Corps with its headquarters in Rendsburg was designated as Allied Land Forces Schleswig-Holstein and Jutland, with an area of responsibility which also included Hamburg and the Danish island of Funen. It was then manned by American, British, Canadian, Danish and German personnel, LANDJUT became the main land force component of the tri-service command of the Allied Forces

Baltic Approaches (COMBALTAP), headquarters whose established at Karup in the Jutland peninsula. This concept remained unchanged for more than 30 years. Throughout that time LANDJUT was the only multinational corps headquarters in NATO, the forerunner of what has become accepted as the norm (six of the eight corps in NATO's Region Central are now multinational). Following the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact, NATO went through significant changes in its structure. From 1994 the headquarters of NATO corps, as a general rule, were non longer funded centrally by the Alliance, but became the financial responsibility of the most involved nations. Since both major contributors to LANDJUT, Germany and Denmark, agreed with SACEUR on the importance of retaining a multinational corps

Left

Low-altitude antiaircraft system of the Danish Army.

Facing page

M113 tracked vehicles in exercise.

in the area, they signed a Memorandum of Understanding. This memorandum now forms the basis for the manning and funding of the headquarters and for provision of forces to the Corps which is a part of NATO's Main Defence Forces. Although there are presently no American or Canadian officers in the staff, Headquarters LANDJUT retains its international status as a multinational headquarters.

The tasks and the role of LANDJUT have changed after 1989. The area of operation has been widened to include the area south and east of Hamburg, and the garrison area now includes the Danish island of Zealand and the German Bundesland Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. Furthermore, emphasis has changed to NATO's dialogue of co-operation and partnership with the Eastern European countries. The main bodies of LANDJUT are today the Danish Division and the 14th German Division.

Furthermore, both Germany and Denmark contribute with corps troops.

Headquarters LANDJUT is now in Redsburg, Germany; in view of Poland's imminent entrance into the NATO structure, the Defence Ministers of Poland, Germany and Denmark have recently planned the constitution of a trinational Corps. Could the establishment of this major unit modify the organization of the Danish Army?

With the Partnership for Peace co-operation and the planned enlargement of NATO with Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic, NATO is facing a new era. This will affect the Danish

Army substantially. Poland is expected to join NATO in 1999, and at the same time the creation of a new multinational (Polish, German, Danish) Corps on the basis of LANDJUT is planned. The name of the new corps will be Multinational Corps North East (MNC NE). Its headquarters will be placed in Stettin in Poland. The headquarters is expected to be operational from the end of the year 2000. The forces will consist of national divisions and brigades from the three countries: the 12th Polish Division, the 14th German Division, and the Danish Division. The new corps will fit into NATO's strategy and be prepared for Article 5 operations as well as crisis management, peace support, and humanitarian missions.

Denmark has made known its intention of participating in NATO's Immediate Reaction Force, which is a symbol of Atlantic solidarity. Will Danish soldiers come for their training also to countries of the Southern Region, like Italy?

Denmark contributes to NATO's Immediate Reaction Forces with a light reconnaissance unit. The unit, of company size, participates in ACE Mobile Force (Land) AMF(L)) major activities including exercises. From the year 2000, the unit is expected to be ready also for extreme climatic conditions including winter warfare.

Danish soldiers participated in the operations in former Jugoslavia, both under the UN flag and within IFOR/SFOR. What lessons have been learned from this long peace-mission?

Denmark has a long tradition in peace support operations. Over the years about 50,000 Danish soldiers have participated in peacekeeping missions, and we have collected a variety of lessons learned. Today Denmark contributes almost 1,000 soldiers to peace support operations, and there are no indications that this number will decrease in the near future. For the time being, we are considering, in close co-operation with the Netherlands and Austria, to contribute to a peacekeeping force to Western Sahara (MINURSO).

Denmark's participation in the missions in Former Yugoslavia, first under the UN and later under NATO in IFOR and SFOR. has been of great value for the development of the Army. This involvement has brought new challenges for the training and procurement of equipment. In view of the lessons learned, and the development in peace support operations, we foresee a demand for - and the necessity of - modern and efficient equipment, which not only will make it possible to cooperate and carry out the missions, but even more vital - protect and secure the participating personnel. In co-operation with Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, our engagement in Former Yugoslavia has also been used as a common training platform where different units from the three Baltic nations have participated as part of the Danish Battalion.

A multinational planning cell for peace operations, SHIRBRIG, has been operational for some months at Hoevelt Barracks, near Copenhagen. Several Nations partecipate in this activity, and many others have shown a great interest in the project. Could this cell become a Staff, oriented towards peace operations?

The establishment of a UN Stand-by Forces High Readiness Brigade (SHIRBRIG) was started in 1994 on a Danish initiative and will be composed of contributions from so far 12 countries (Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Canada, The Czech Republic, Finland, Holland, Ireland, Norway, Poland, Sweden, and Denmark), It is planned to become operational in 1999. The headquarters is already established in Denmark with staff officers from the troopcontributing countries. It is meant to be able - on short notice - to participate in peacekeeping and humanitarian missions. The brigade will be composed of national contributions according to the so called «UN Stand-by Arrangements System». This practise will reduce preparations and improve procedures, training,





«Leopard 1A5» with camouflage system.

and planning to a common basis.

In spring and summer 1997 a Danish reconnaissance company participated in the Multinational Protection Force in Albania. This was the first massive Europeanonly peace mission. Considering the experience of the Danish Army has in these operations, what is your assessment of the FMP, where, for the first time, there was a close cooperation among UN, OSCE, EU, WEU and Italy, which was responsible for the entire mission?

The reason why Denmark all the way through has been participating in the Balkan peace support operations should be found in an overall wish for a stable and secure Europe. Denmark could not passively accept the crises in Former Yugoslavia, which escalated and inflicted severe damage to the whole region. Therefore, Denmark also had a clear wish to be a part of the Multinational Protection Force (FMP) in Albania.

The FMP-mission in Albania demonstrated in the finest way the ability of European countries to co-operate in an international mission. As mentioned, Denmark participated with the light reconnaissance unit which is part of AMF(L). The unit gained much experience in preparing for and deploying to a new mission on short notice.

The professional component is now two thirds of the Danish Army personnel; conscripts represent the remaining third. Is it possible to envisage a further increase in long-term volunteers and a contemporary reduction of the number of conscripts?

The Danish Army is mainly based on a mobilization principle.

In most of the Army peacetime units, conscripts are called up and trained in periods of 8 to 12 months. After the training period, the soldiers are transferred to mobilization status in the wartime structure. In order to be ready for mission employment, the units must conduct a supplementary training of 4 - 6 weeks. Some units, for instance tank and signal units, are manned by professional soldiers due to the complexity of the materiel and equipment. Following the mobilization principle, one of the basic and necessary tasks of the Army is to produce units and forces for the wartime structure. Thus the Army is traditionally divided in a peacetime structure and a wartime structure. This doublestructure has been maintained during the modernization and development of the Army in the nineties.

The intent is to continue this mobilization principle based on conscription.

Denmark has a long tradition for employment of female personnel in the Armed Forces. Female personnel are employed in all services and arms, including combat arms. Currently, we are conducting a campaign to motivate women further to join the armed forces and make a career in one of the three Services.

The regular reserve enables the Danish Army to triple its structure in a very short time. Considering the large number of reservists, is it possible to maintain a real interoperability between this component and the units on active service?

As mentioned previously, the Danish Army is based on a mobilization principle. This means that a large part of the Army is composed by reserve forces. In order to make reserve force units meet required standards, an efficient training system is necessary. The Danish training system includes Basic Training and Supplementary Training in order to prepare the units for Article 5 operations as mentioned above. Units involved in international and peace support operations are subject to Mission Oriented Training of approximately two weeks.

Units in the Danish Reaction Brigade furthermore go through two weeks of Refresher Training at fixed intervals.

Supplementary to this system, an intensive training program is conducted with leaders and muster training with units in order to maintain the required levels of training. With this system, the Danish Army ensures the required training level for both active and reserve units, and thus interoperability between the units.

Together with the reserve, Denmark has, like the other Scandinavian countries, a robust Home Guard. In view of its diffusion at every level of Danish society, can the presence of this militia be considered a channel for communication and dialogue between society and the military?

A very important part of the Danish defence is the Home Guard. You may say that it is an expression of the will of the Danish population to defend the nation. It is an organization with voluntary personnel and with a limited number of regular personnel. The strength of the Home Guard is approximately 66,000. The Home Guard was established in 1948 by an Act of the Danish Parliament. It is divided into three services with a land component, a naval component with patrol vessels, and an air force component with a Ground Observer Corps. Although the capabilities of the Home Guard are limited, it is the intent of the Danish Government to widen the spectrum of its tasks. Especially some of the tasks related to local defence units will gradually be taken over by the Home Guard. As an integral part of the study over the possible future structure of the Danish Armed Forces, the structure and the role of the Home Guard will also be analyzed.

The conclusions of the study have - as previously mentioned - still to be made, but I am sure that the Home Guard will also in the future be an important component of the Danish Armed Forces.

*Journalist

General Christian Hvidt was born in Copenhagen on July 15, 1942.

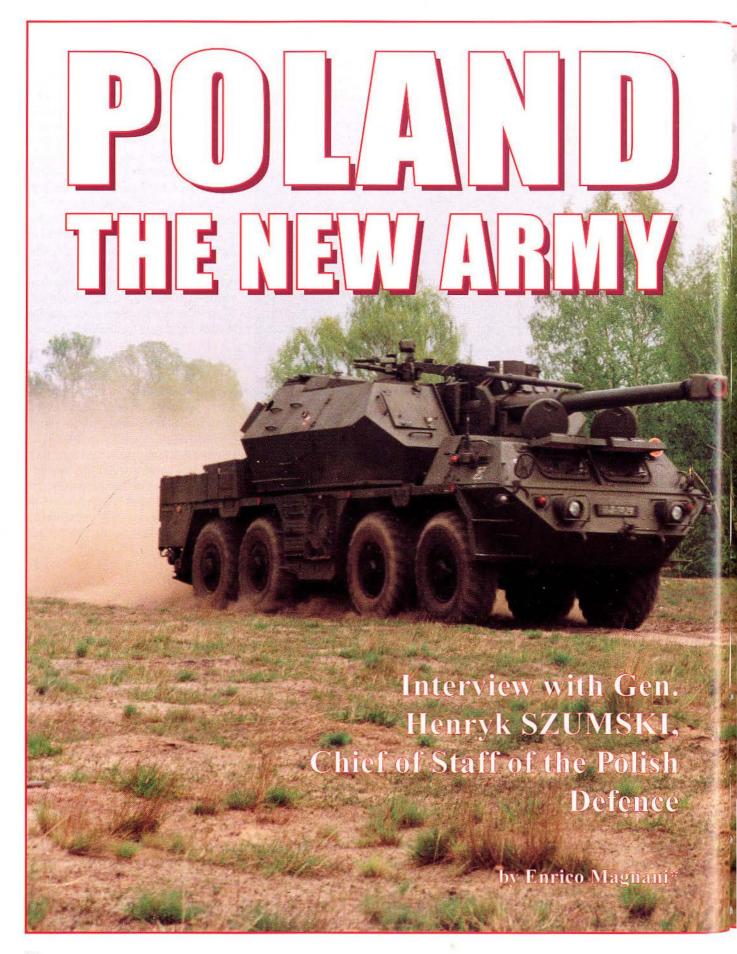
Lieutenant in 1962, he was promoted to the rank of Captain in 1962, and to Colonel in 1987. Gen. Hvidt is a test pilot, and held important positions, both in command and Staff appointments.

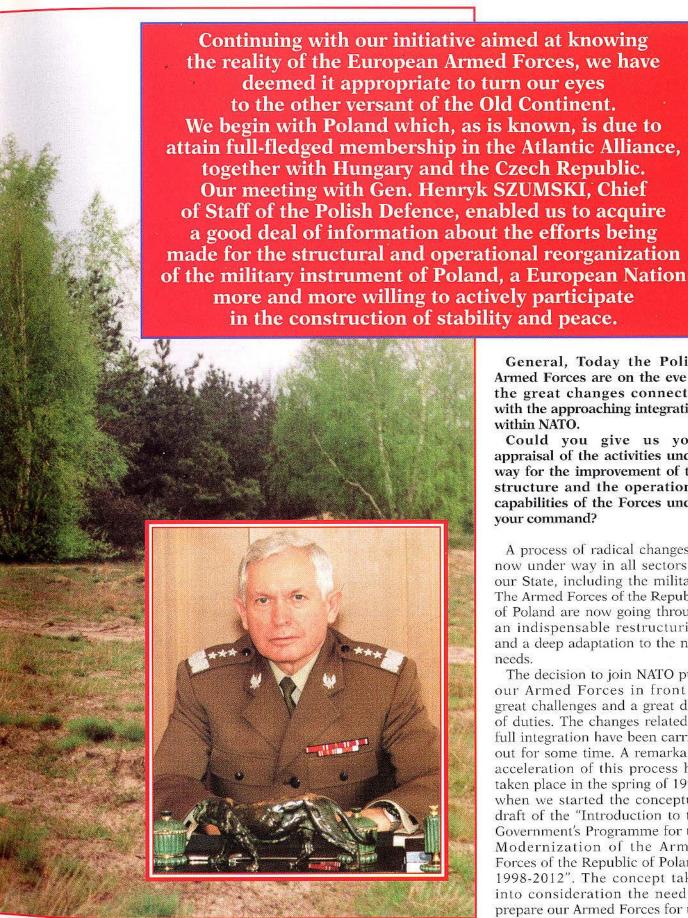
He commanded the First F-16 Squadron and was Staff Officer and Branch Chief of the Plans and Policy Division of the Defence Staff.

Other positions: Chief of Staff, Tactical Air Command, Deputy Chief of Staff for Plans and Policy; Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, Budget and Finance.

In 1996 was appointed Chief of the Defence Staff. He has been awarded several Danish and foreign decorations.

General Christian Hvidt is married and has three children.





General, Today the Polish Armed Forces are on the eve of the great changes connected with the approaching integration within NATO.

Could you give us your appraisal of the activities under way for the improvement of the structure and the operational capabilities of the Forces under vour command?

A process of radical changes is now under way in all sectors of our State, including the military. The Armed Forces of the Republic of Poland are now going through an indispensable restructuring and a deep adaptation to the new

The decision to join NATO puts our Armed Forces in front of great challenges and a great deal of duties. The changes related to full integration have been carried out for some time. A remarkable acceleration of this process has taken place in the spring of 1997, when we started the conceptual draft of the "Introduction to the Government's Programme for the Modernization of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Poland, 1998-2012". The concept takes into consideration the need to prepare our Armed Forces for the



following tasks:

- defence operations together with NATO Integrated Forces, in case of an aggression to Poland;
- participation in the defence of other members of the Atlantic Alliance;
- participation in peace-keeping or peace-enforcing missions outside the Polish territory.

In 1998, after the conclusion of the negotiations on the "Objectives of the Armed Forces", we introduced indispensable changes in the "Introductions", which became the "Programme of Integration with the North Atlantic Organization, Treaty Modernization of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Poland, 1998-2012". The prerequisite of the programme is the reorganization of the military structure in all the aspects of its functions. The new structure, composition and equipment, together with the new level of interoperability will assure the capability of carrying out all activities within the Alliance, in

accordance with its military doctrine.

The changes we are introducing in the Armed Forces and the approaching entry of Poland in NATO make necessary that the General Staff be an efficient "brain of the defence" on which all tasks - analysis, planning, mobilization, logistics, strategy and operations - converge. together with the command duties. For all this, we have planned the introduction, starting from Jan.1, 1999, of a new Staff structure of the Wojsko Polskie, i.e. a joint Staff, adequate to the integration needs of NATO.

In the future there will be two basic components of the Armed forces: one assigned to NATO and the other under national command. We are carrying out the division of the Armed Forces into operational forces and territorial defence. The tactical, operational and specialistic preparation of the Armed Forces is fundamental. Our system of

higher military training has adjusted its programmes to fit the standards of the Alliance. A considerable number of officers has graduated from the Military Academies, or has attended courses in various NATO countries; many are still studying.

A constant element in the process of approach to the status of member of the Alliance is the participation of our Major Units, formations, ships and aircraft in combined operations with NATO partners. The study of English is now a norm in the training and preparation of the Cadres at all levels. At present, about five thousand regular soldiers speak English and more than a thousand can use it fluently.

After the end of the Cold War, the Polish Armed Forces, like all the other European forces, have gone through a radical reorganization, due both to the Facing page. ZU-23-2 two-barrel machine gun.

Right.

Polish soldiers adjusting the sight of a 120mm mortar.

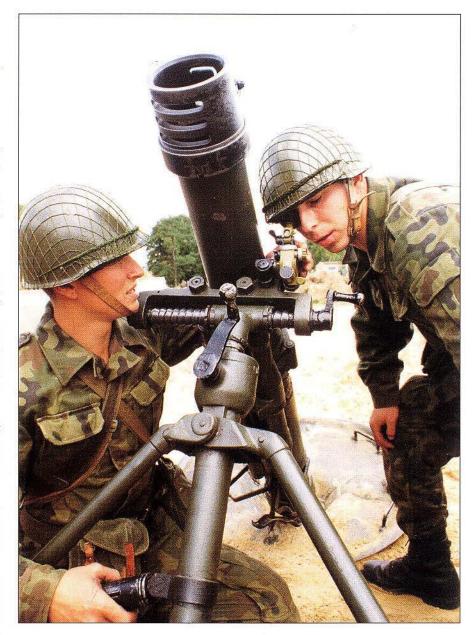
changes in the strategic scenario and the effects of the CFE Treaty.

What have been the most significant expectations in relation with the evolution of the Armed Forces in this period?

In the '80s, the Wojsko Polskie consisted of 400,000 soldiers and relevant equipment. As a result of the negotiations on disarmament, the size of armaments and personnel was significantly reduced. At the present time, a little more than 200,000 soldiers are on duty in our Services.

The abovementioned "Introduction to the Government's Programme of Development of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Poland for the years 1998-2012" and the "Programme of Integration with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and Modernization of the Armed Forces of Poland for the Years 1998-2012" outlined the prospects of change, taking into account the defence needs of the Country and the financial possibilities. The most important features of the reform of our Forces are: reduction to 180,000 soldiers, gradual introduction of surveillance, command and communication systems, and the adoption of antiaircraft and antitank defences, modern and adequate to NATO standards. With the increase in the capabilities of financing the defence expenditures, we will gradually supply the Armed Forces with new and modern arms and equipment, and improve the mobility of the Units.

The Polish Armed Forces have gained a remarkable experience



in peace operations, starting from the '50s in Korea. The NORDPOL Multinational Brigade which has been commanded since last July by a Polish general, operates within the Multinational Division of the Stabilization Force (SFOR). To what extent can the Polish participation in the SFOR force be considered a test for Poland's admission to NATO?

The Wojsko Polskie's soldiers have been participating for many years in international missions, especially UN ones, aimed at supporting the peace processes. So far, more than 30,000 servicemen have taken part in almost 40 missions in various continents. At the present time, several Polish units are engaged in many countries of the Middle East, Africa and Asia. The mission in Bosnia Herzegovina, one of the most important, is also the one closest to us from the geographical point of view.

The IFOR/SFOR mission, generally considered a new type of peace support operation (based on Chapter VII of the UN Charter) is organized and led by NATO. Its mandate envisages the recourse to force not only in self-



Paratroopers of the peace contingent in Bosnia (above), and soldiers engaged in a UN mission (facing page).

defence, but also in order to support the mandate's resolution in form and substance. For the Polish Armed Forces, this is the first instance of operations in a real situation under Allied international command.

Poland assigned to IFOR/SFOR a paratroop battalion plus the officers for the Headquarters, NORDPOL Brigade and its organic units. Furthermore, in the course of the operation, our Country assigned to the SFOR strategic reserve an assaultparatrooper battalion, employable on order of the Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR), after approval by our national authorities. It must be underlined that since June 1998 the NORDPOL Brigade has been commanded - with very good results - by the Polish General

Mieczysław Bieniek.

The experience gained with the participation in IFOR/SFOR reduces the differences in the operating methods between NATO and Polish units, helps us to master the joint planning and training procedures, and make possible for the Cadres at tactical and operational-command level to participate in common actions.

From the general point of view, these experiences allow us to put into practice the organization, procedures and command-and-control principles required by NATO.

Therefore the IFOR/SFOR mission is the most important school of associative collaboration among partners. There, the Polish youth in uniform, together with their colleagues from the NATO member Countries and various other Nations, participate in the reestablishment of peace in a country destroyed by war. They work in difficult conditions, in a war environment, under the operational control of the Atlantic

Alliance. It's not an abstract study anymore: these are concrete actions, based on strictly defined procedures. In a not-too distant future, the Cadres of our Armed Forces, who are gaining experience precisely there, will begin to work at NATO Commands and Staffs.

The German-Danish binational Corps, after the addition of a Polish Division will become a trinational Unit, whose Headquarters will be located in Stettin.

At what stage are the plans for the constitution of the North-East Multinational Corps? Is there any plan for the creation of other multinational units on the central territory, with the participation of German and Czech units?

The North-East Multinational Corps is being established on the initiative of the Defence Ministers of Denmark, Germany and Poland. The analysis on its feasibility started in the autumn of 1997. The



result of this work was a report submitted to the Ministers in March 1998 - which unambiguously upheld the feasibility of such a joint operational undertaking and of locating its Headquarters in Stettin.

Later on, the intergovernmental accord and the interministerial accord (respectively, Corps Convention and Corps Agreement) were drafted and agreed upon. In the autumn of 1998 the Ministers of our three Nations signed the Corps Convention, which was then sent to the respective Parliaments for approval.

Meanwhile, the modernization of the barracks for the Corps Headquarters has been going on since 1998. Foreseeably the Multinational Corps North-East (MNCN-E) will begin its existence after the admission of Poland to NATO in 1999. The official opening ceremony will take place in the early summer of the same year.

The Polish Armed Forces have

two mountain brigades. Will both of them be maintained? Is the development of these manoeuvre units envisaged, following the example of similar formations in other NATO countries, such as Italy, Germany, France and Spain?

Up to now, in our Army, there have been too many units equipped with heavy weapons. Today we strive to obtain units with higher mobility, equipped with lighter and more effective weapons.

For this reason, both mountain brigades will continue to exist in the structure of the Polish Armed Forces, but they will undergo a revision process. Due to the character of the tasks envisaged for it, the 22nd Mountain Infantry Brigade will be organized within the territorial defence units.

The 21st "Podhale Marksmen" Brigade will instead become more versatile, through the incorporation of armoured and mechanized companies. The 21st Brigade includes a Polish-Ukrainian battalion, appointed to participate in international peace-missions.

Joining a structurally very strong alliance such as NATO implies remarkable efforts connected with standardization and with having to learn technical norms, operational procedures and training philosophy.

What initiatives have been taken in order to achieve interoperability between the Polish and Allied Armed Forces?

For some years now we have been trying to increase the possibility of cooperating with the Armed Forces of the NATO countries. The National Defence Academy already seven years ago, started to train its students for the cooperation with NATO officers. Also the other academies and schools for senior officers are doing the same; each school according to

its own characteristics. A deep reform of the training programmes has already taken place. Instructors and students, during the teaching process, deal with the new contents of the art of war and the strategic concepts of the Atlantic Alliance.

The work in progress is aimed not only at conforming our units to the standards of the Atlantic Alliance, but also at increasing the number of the units selected for having achieved the interoperability level.

For the achievement of interoperability a special agenda has been worked out, which defines the tasks deriving from the "Planning and Evaluation Process" (PARP) for the Polish units earmarked for the collaboration with NATO, the "Force Goal Targets", as well as the work carried out by the remaining units in order to achieve interoperability.

The concept adopted in order to attain the objectives of interoperability is based on the contents of the abovesaid PARP document for the years 1997-1999. More than 40 objectives were considered. They should be achieved during this period by the formations, units and infrastructural elements assigned by Poland to NATO.

I would like to explain the situation with some examples that I consider interesting. The Paratroop battalion of the NORDPOL Brigade in Bosnia Herzegovina had reached, already in 1997, the preparation level necessary for the collaboration with NATO. This is true also for the Assault Paratrooper battalion and for the Headquarters' Hospital. By the end of next year, interoperability should be achieved also by the Headquarters and Staff of two army Divisions, as well as by one Brigade Staff of each of these Divisions.



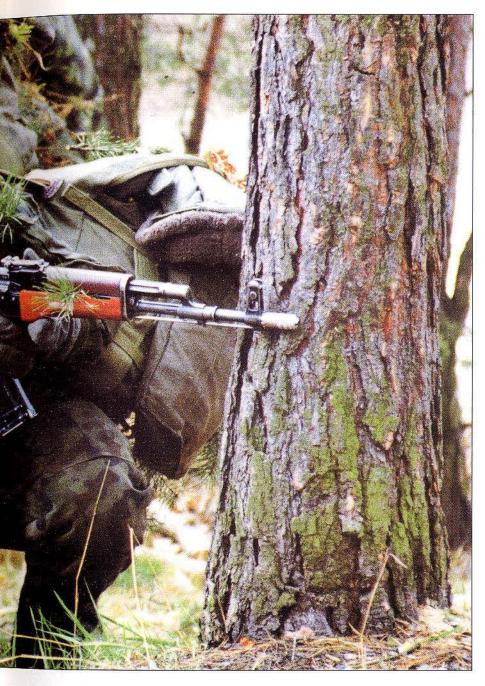
Furthermore, the following units should be ready for NATO cooperation: the Search and Rescue Air Squadron, two Search and Rescue ships, and a corvette.

The changes in the operational concepts are a significant cultural fact, touching also the political and social aspects of the Nation.

Have there been particular training problems on account of the introduction of the "shared responsibility" principle between

junior officers and NCOs?

The reorientation of Poland towards the West is taking place with the approval of a very large majority of our society and with the agreement - expressed by more than half of our people- for our entry in NATO and the European Union. On this subject, we did not notice any problem in the Armed Forces. Civilian control and the apolitical nature of the Armed Forces are, in our life, a legally decreed norm, fully respected by



all soldiers.

The "shared responsiblity" principle you ask me about does not concern only junior officers and NCOs. I want to stress that in Poland each soldier feels responsible for the questions related to the Nation's security, even though the responsibility strongly depends upon the individual's particular job.

If we have to speak about problems, the only worth mentioning would be the economic ones. The changes which are taking place in Poland are really deep, and they concern all sectors. Because of this, the expenses for defence are limited by the needs of the other sectors of life as, for example, social security, health services, public education. As far as I know, this is not a Polish problem only. Nevertheless, some of our regular military cadres experience some economic inadequacy and, sometimes, find better earnings outside the Armed Forces. This concerns all corps and all ranks. At times, this leads to

wrong conclusions. If a soldier makes the voluntary and autonomous decision to leave the service, this is a private matter, although sometimes, when these decisions become too many, there could be problems for the Commanders of the units concerned. Something of this kind happened last year. However, these personal decisions have no political character.

The reform of our Armed Forces is a necessity. In relation to this, part of the Cadres will have to move to other units and garrisons, some will retire, while a large group will be included in a reconversion programme and train in civilian jobs. We envisage that the reductions in the strength of the Armed Forces will affect the life of many thousands of families of cadres and civilian workers in the Armed Forces. We are aware of the fact that they have offered the Armed Forces the best part of their life. The solutions adopted will certainly mitigate the difficulties deriving from the need to leave the Service.

In the Polish Armed Forces there is a considerable number of conscripts, who serve for 18 months. How will the structure of the Armed Forces change in the coming years? Are they going to be reduced? What will be the role of regular soldiers and female personnel?

Our reform envisages that our Armed Forces be 50% professional. This means that the number of regular and on-contract soldiers will be between 80,000 and 90,000 while among the conscripts there will be between 16,000 and 18,000 re-enlisted men. The structure of the established strength will be: 30% officers (1/3 senior officers), 30% senior noncommissioned officers, 40% other NCOs. Therefore, in the future, the number of positions for officers will be considerably reduced. It will be necessary to discharge

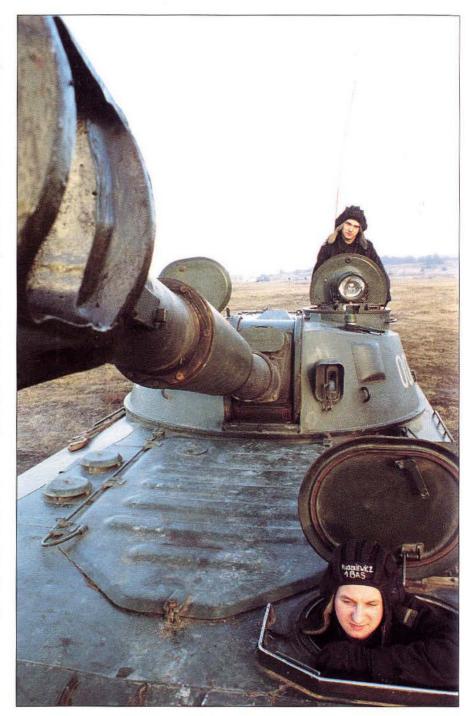
from 12,000 to 15,000 officers in the course of five years, and to enroll between 15,000 to 20,000 regular NCOs, doubling the size of the latter category. This is a serious undertaking, involving particular social consequences. The fact that in the next five years we want to have a considerable increase in the number of oncontract and re-enlisted soldiers, is also important. This, among other things, is the result of the introduction of a twelve-month conscription and of the more and more intense employment of fighting techniques.

In Poland, military service is almost exclusively for men. This does not mean, however, that women are prevented from joining the Services. At present we have a group of women in uniform, not very large but much appreciated. I am sure that in the future the presence of women will increase, but not - I venture to say - in the combat units...

Besides the NATO initiative, Poland is very active in supporting, together with its neighbours, the idea of the constitution of multinational units, such as the Polish-Lithuanian and Polish-Ukrainian battalions. But the security of Europe is obtained also through WEU. What are the relations of the Polish Armed Forces with the structures of this organization?

Membership in WEU - together with that in NATO and EU - is one of the fundamental elements for the full integration of Poland with the European and Euro-Atlantic politico-military structures.

It is necessary to underline the fact that just WEU was the first security organization of the West to grant the status of associated partner to Poland and to the other Central European Nations. Since that moment, the engagement of our Country in WEU activities has been constantly growing: we participate in the meetings of the



Council of Ministers and Permanent Council, as well as in the activities of other important bodies.

As regards the relations of the Polish Armed Forces with WEU, our Country can participate in the Politico-Military Group and the Military Group. One of the signs of our Country's commitment is the fact that we offered our Forces for the participation in WEU-sponsored operations, as well as

our active participation in designing the exercises policy.

Poland assigned some military units to the so-called Forces Answerable to Western European Union (FAWEU) for their possible employment in Peace Support Operations. They are: two battalions (one from the Air Cavalry Brigade and one from the Air Mobile Brigade), a field hospital, a search-and-rescue air squadron and a rescue ship.



Above.

«BAT» tracked vehicle of the Engineer Corps, equipped with a trench-digging system.

Facing page.

«Godzik» 122 mm self-propelled gun.

We have been participating for some years in CRISEX exercises, ("Crisis Management") at the beginning as observers and then, after CRISEX 97/98 as full-fledged members. Another step forward in the enlargement of the collaboration of the Polish Armed Forces with WEU is the invitation to the Chief of Staff of the Wojsko Polskie to take part in the CHODs meeting in Rome, in preparation the new tasks deriving from the change of our status in the organization.

The participation in the works of the Union will enable Poland to contribute to form the image, and realize the idea, of a secure Europe.

* Journalist

Gen. Henryk SZUMSKI was born on April 6, 1941. In 1961 he joined the Armoured Corp's Officer School in Poznan, where he graduated as a Second Lieutenant in 1964.

Assigned to the 68th Armoured Regiment in Budow, he held the positions of platoon commander and company commander.

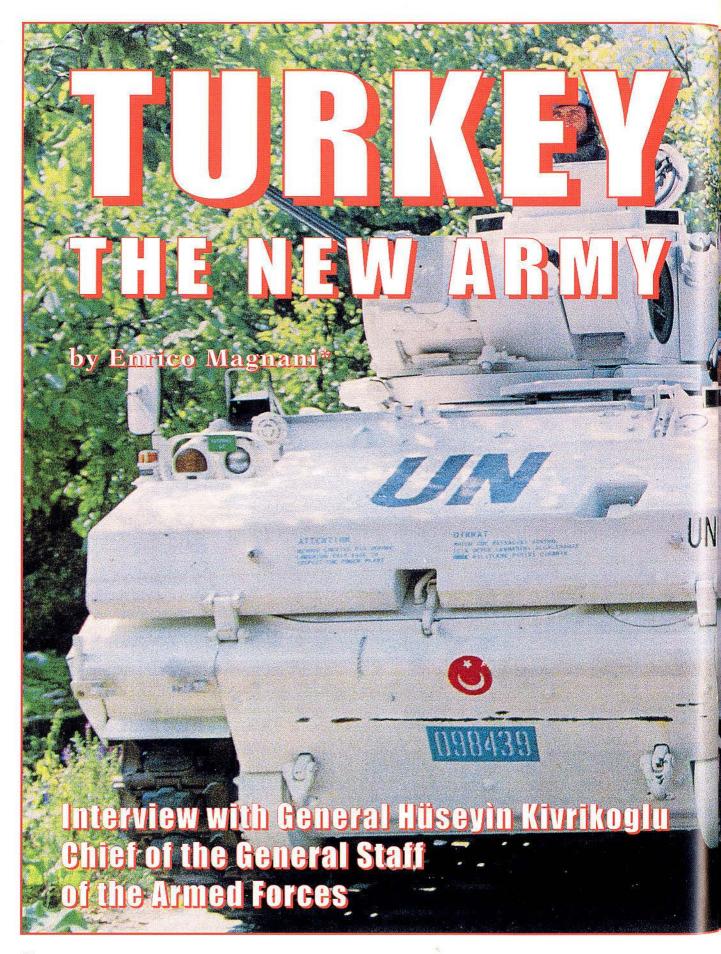
Between 1968 and 1971, he attended the General Staff Academy; later he was appointed Chief of Staff of the 24th Armoured Regiment in Stargard - Stettin and Commander of the same unit. After attending the Soviet Armed Forces' General Staff Academy, in 1983 Gen. Szumski was assigned to the HQ of the Pomerania Military District. In 1986 he was appointed Deputy Chief of the

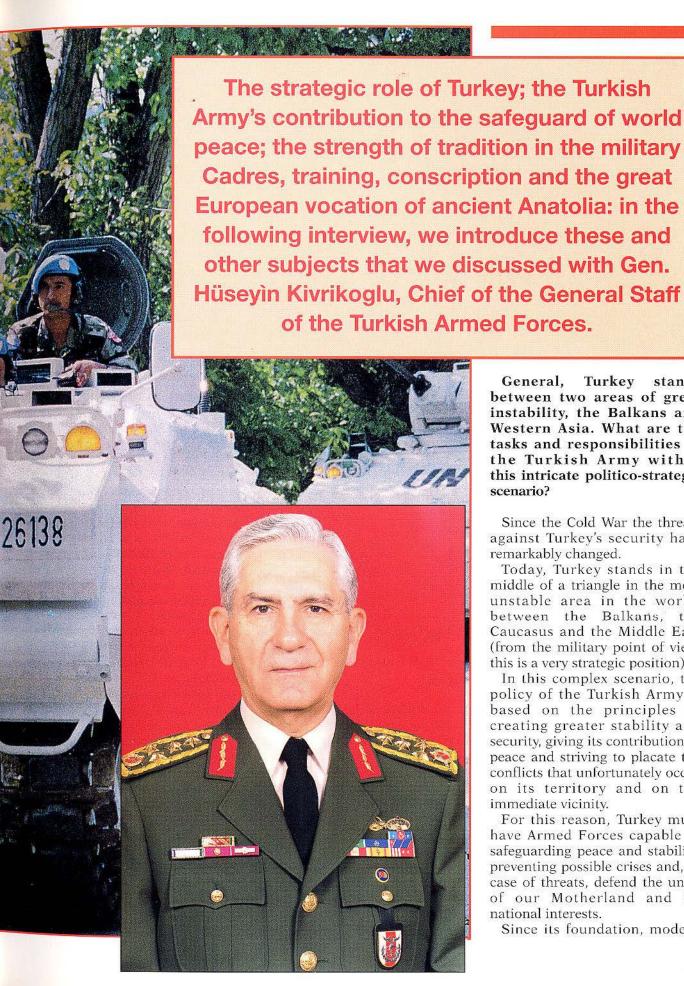
In 1986 he was appointed Deputy Chief of the Operations Office, Defence General Staff, and in 1987 assumed the command of the Military District of Silesia.

Between 1989 and 1993 Gen. Szumski returned to the Defence General Staff and was later assigned to the National Security Office, where he held several prestigious positions.

On March 10, 1997 Gen. Szumski was appointed Chief of the Defence Staff.

General Henryk Szumski is married and has four children. He is an expert in history and literature.





General. Turkey stands between two areas of great instability, the Balkans and Western Asia. What are the tasks and responsibilities of the Turkish Army within this intricate politico-strategic scenario?

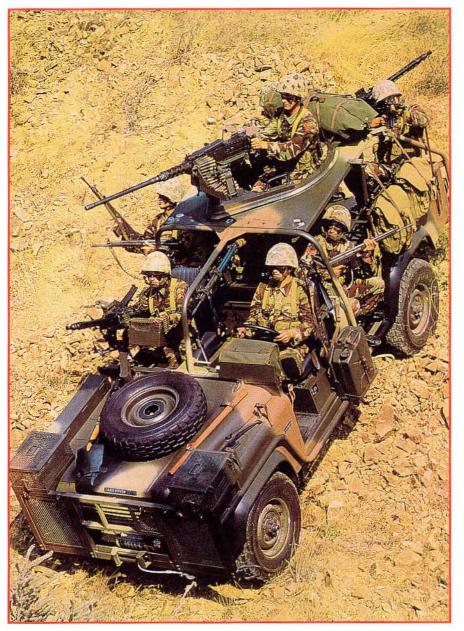
Since the Cold War the threats against Turkey's security have remarkably changed.

Today, Turkey stands in the middle of a triangle in the most unstable area in the world: between the Balkans, the Caucasus and the Middle East (from the military point of view, this is a very strategic position).

In this complex scenario, the policy of the Turkish Army is based on the principles of creating greater stability and security, giving its contribution to peace and striving to placate the conflicts that unfortunately occur on its territory and on the immediate vicinity.

For this reason, Turkey must have Armed Forces capable of safeguarding peace and stability, preventing possible crises and, in case of threats, defend the unity of our Motherland and its national interests.

Since its foundation, modern



The Turkish Army has equipped its special units with all-terrain vehicles for patrols in impervious areas.

Turkey has always remained faithful to the great principle expressed by Kemal Atatürk: "peace in our Country, peace in the world".

Turkey is an element of equilibrium, stability and peace in the most unstable area in the world.

In this context, we always seek to establish friendly and peaceful relations with all the world Countries, especially with those around us.

Historically, the Army has been an element of socio-cultural growth for Turkey. What is the

role of the soldier in the civilian society?

The Army mirrors the people, and represents the social classes of the Country with all their characteristics.

With its high sense of discipline deriving from its past, as well with its strong culture based on the deepest traditions of the people, the Army has always been highly appreciated by the citizens. As a matter of fact the Turks, whenever they needed help, always found their Army at their side, always close to them.

In case of natural disasters of

different kinds, the Army has always been of vital help to the population, giving all types of assistance with a high sense of duty, thanks to the professionalism of its young members, who start their military service at twenty.

The Army's most important function is to safeguard all the principles set forth by Atatürk (the Father of the Country) as well as that of guaranteeing, on the basis of our Constitution, the existence of the Republic, guided by the principles of democracy and laicism.

The Army's great trust in democracy has been the most important factor that made us deserve the high consideration of the people.

Today some Army Units are included in the Northern Multinational Division and participate in the IFOR/SFOR mission; in the past they operated in Korea and later in Somalia. What lessons did the Turkish Army learn from the participation in these different operations?

Army Units participate in NATO and UN Peacekeeping missions.

Many lessons have been learned from the multinational operations.

I list the most significant ones:

- it would be appropriate to send, together with the Peacekeeping troops, also an assistance organization, in order to achieve the political objectives;
- any type of initiative capable of impairing the principle of the troops' impartiality should be avoided;
- the Peacekeeping troops must be a deterrent factor;
- the troops must be self-sufficient;



M-108 self-propelled 155mm howitzer of the Turkish artillery.

- the troops must have the characteristics of special teams, highly mobile, and a sufficiently flexible command-and-control system;
- the equipment and materials of the troops must be suitable for the conditions of the Regions, in order to permit them to operate for long periods of time;
- before sending Peacekeeping forces to the operational territories, it is necessary to clarify, with all participants, the agreements reached during the nogotiations;
- it is very important to give the troops the necessary training before the missions, increasing the number of field-fortification exercises;
- the troops participating in the operations often feel obliged to assume also the task of supporting the host Country, and this creates serious problems from the logistic point of view;

- the favourable outcome of the Peacekeeping operations mostly depends on the collaboration between soldiers and civilians;
- from the viewpoint of standardization and interoperability, at times there are problems in the operations in which several Countries participate;
- it is essential to coordinate the collaboration between military and civilians with appropriate public relations, as well as to keep the local population always informed;

The Turkish Army, thanks to the reductions envisaged by the CFE Treaty, is now modernizing its tank line, as well as the infantry and artillery equipment. Are there other modernization and reinforcement programmes under way?

Our modernization and reinforcement planning for the next 25 or 30 years envisages an expenditure of about 150 billion dollars. At the present time several projects are in progress in

the sectors of air defence, tanks, helicopters and ships.

The Turkish Army includes a high number of conscripts who serve for 18 months. Are they able to handle the everincreasing complexity of the weapon systems now in use or to be adopted soon? Do you envisage an increase in the number of long-term personnel or professionals?

According to our Constitution, every male, physically and mentally healthy, has the duty and the right to do his military service. The duration of conscription is determined according to the needs of the Armed Forces. At present, the conscription duty lasts 18 months for privates and 16 months for Officers.

In Turkey, conscripts are trained in a very serious and professional manner and learn to employ very new and sophisticated technologies.

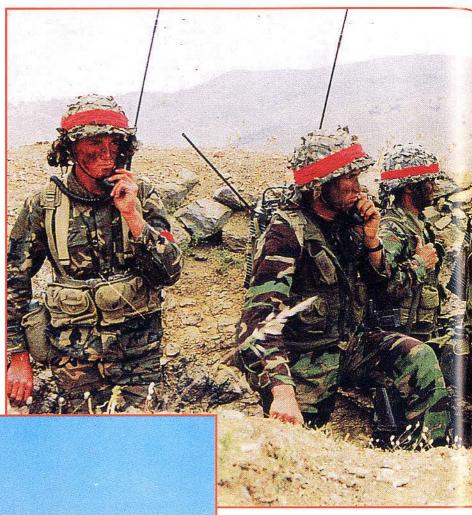
To maintain all this has very high costs, and this is why we are trying to find a balance point between professionals (long-term soldiers) and conscripts.

At the present time, the professionals in the Armed Forces are Officers, NCOs and civilian personnel.

The military history of Turkey is rich in very important reference points and heroic deeds. Do you believe that the call to traditions could represent, even today, a real cultural vocation, in a moment when technology acquires wider and wider spaces?

The Turks are very traditionalist, and perfectly conscious of their past and their history. Therefore, they are capable of looking back in order to have constructive references for their future.

Obviously, the Turkish Armed Forces have the same characteristics



Ahove.

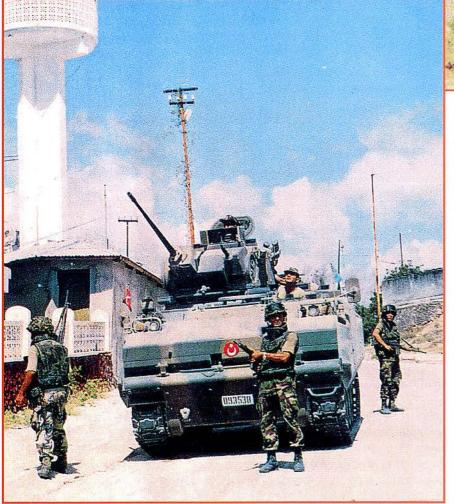
Soldiers of a trasmission unit during an exercise.

Left.

Elements of an infantry unit engaged in mopping up activities

of the people to which they belong, and they express their traditionalism through a high sense of loyalty, discipline, courage and obedience. Both the ancient and the more recent history of the Armed Forces are full of acts of heroism, precisely thanks to the values deriving from traditions. The Army has obtained glorious results during the War of Independence and the First World War.

Furthermore, during the international operations in Korea, Somalia and Albania, the Turkish Army carried out its tasks with





great motivation and success, in order to give its contribution to world peace.

Will the change of the Headquarters in Izmir from the present Allied Forces Southeastern Europe to the envisaged Joint Sub-Regional Command - recently decided within the general reorganization of NATO Headquarters - produce any modification in the Atlantic Alliance's presence in Turkey?

Today Turkey is a high-risk frontier Country, due to its geographic situation, and is vitally important for European security, which is strictly connected with the security of the Mediterranean basin.

However, this situation had no effect on the decision concerning the transformation mentioned in your question.

The Izmir Land Headquarters is turning into a Joint Sub-Regional Command South East. Besides, this situation is valid also for Greece, Italy and Spain.

Ankara is an associated member of WEU. How is this presence expressed, in concrete terms? Are there Army personnel at the Planning Cell in Brussels? Is it envisaged that Turkish units participate in NATO manoeuvres and exercises?

Turkey has been an associated member of WEU since 1992. Among other things, the Allied Countries of NATO have obtained, with the Kircheberg declaration of 1994, the right of speech and veto (with the exclusion of the decisions taken with the consensus of the full members of the organization). The declaration granted the associates some of the rights of the full members, among which that of sending officers to the Planning Cell in Brussels (3 Turkish Officers are there now) and to join the EUROCOM club. Recently, since August 1995, Turkey has been taking part in the WEU space-group.

Besides this presence in WEU, Turkey has the right to be a full member of the following organizations (transferred within WEU and NATO): ELT, EUROCOM. WELG, WEAG.

* Journalist

General Hüseyìn Kivrikoglu was born in Bozüyük, Central Anatolia, in 1934. He attended secondary school at the Isikar Military College in Bursa and in 1955 joined the Ankara Military Academy, where he graduated as Artillery Officer.

In 1957 he attended the Istanbul War College and later, with the rank of Major, was assigned to the 9th Infantry Division.

After graduation from the Armed Forces Academy, he was assigned to the AFSOUTH Plans Office, to the War College and to the Research Section of the Plans Office, Headquarters Turkish Land Forces.

Between 1978 and 1980, he commanded the Cadet Regiment of the Military Academy.

After attending the NATO Defence College in Rome, in 1980 he was promoted Brigadier General and appointed Deputy Chief Operations at the SHAPE Operations Center.

In 1983 Gen. Kivrikoglu was Commander of the 3rd Brigade and in 1984 commanded the 11th Brigade.

In 1984, after his promotion to the rank of Major General, he was appointed Chief of Staff of Hq. LANDSOUTHEAST, Izmir, and, in 1986, Commander of the 9th Infantry Division.

Promoted Lieutenant General in 1988, he became Chief of Personnel at the Defence General Staff and, later, Commander of the 5th Corps. In 1992 Gen. Kivrikoglu assumed the Office of Undersecretary at the Ministry of National Defence.

Commander of LANDSOUTHEAST in 1993; Commander of the 1st Army in 1996.

In 1997, Gen. Kivrikoglu was appointed Commander of the Turkish Land Forces and, in 1998, Chief of the Defence General Staff.

General Hüseyin Kivrikoglu is married and has a son. He has been awarded several Turkish and foreign decorations.

HARINA by Enrico Magnani*

Interview with the Chief
of the Hellenic army—
General Staff Lieutenant General
Manoyssos Paragioudakis

Contrary to NATO member countries' general trend, Greece has increased the defence budget allowing the Army modernization programme. Within short time the Hellenic army will be flexible, light and well trained and capable of playing an ever-important role during Peace Support and Humanitarian Operations.

We made an interview with Lieutenant General Paragioudakis, Chief of Hellenic Army General Staff, and focused on several important issues.



General, did the Hellenic Army change after the end of the Cold War, the instability in the Balkans and the decision to have an Allied Headquarters in Larissa as part of the NATO re-organization?

To face new challenges the Hellenic Army has made steps leading to:

- a. the mechanization of the army;
- b. a streamlined chain of command with Brigade as basic operational formation;
- c. an Immediate Reaction Force at Army Corps level to:
 - immediately intervene in any area of the country;
 - meet international agreements requirements,
- d. the deployment of a number of forces in sensitive areas to safeguard national borders.

Moreover, training is now performed according to national and international operational requirements and the Army has been equipped with modern weapon systems.

As to the implementation of the Allied Joint Subregional Headquarters in Larissa, it was partially manned last April and is scheduled to be fully operational Commandos in amphibious training.

along with the Allied Joint Subregional Headquarters of Spain, Italy, and Turkey by October 1999.

Greece has assigned 1 Mechanized Infantry Division to ARRC and 1 Field Artillery Battery to AMF. Are these units combat ready today?

I must say that these units were already *combat ready* before being assigned to ARRC and AMF(L), but further steps have been made to meet NATO's high standards. For example I would like to focus on the improved training, the wide participation in national and allied exercises and the upgrade of equipment well beyond NATO standards.

The operational tests prove that we are successful, but we must go on.

Greece has a long lasting Peace Keeping tradition. Today Greece is taking part in SFOR with a transport and military police unit. Is the Hellenic army planning to increase its support to PK in Bosnia-Herzegovina?

Greece has participated in the Bosnia-Herzegovina IFOR and

SFOR operations since December 27, 1995. The Hellenic Force (250 to 300 men) was part of the Multinational Transport Unit named BELUGA (Belgium, Luxembourg, Greece, Austria). Since July 1998 different Countries have participated in the group that was consequently renamed HELBA. Greece is in charge of the

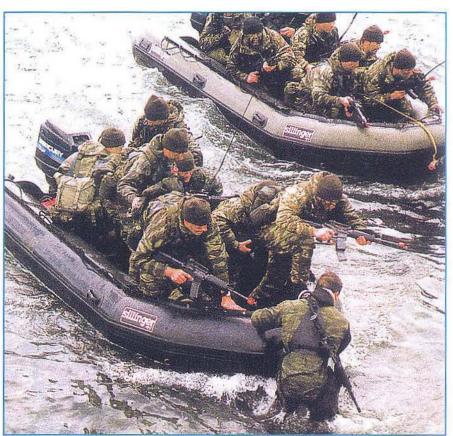
multinational operations coordination and is responsible for the military camp since April 1, 1997. The 25-man transport platoon from Bulgaria joined HELBA on the 3rd of July 1998.

It was decided and planned that Greece will participate in Phase 3 (until June 1999). The Alliance will then decide whether to keep troops in the region or not, in which case Greece is ready to take further decisions.

I would like to underline that during IFOR and SFOR the Hellenic Transport Battalion's missions totalled 500,000 kms, which makes an example of successful multinational operation.

Greece took part in ALBA operation with a mechanised unit which was tasked with missions also in the sensitive





One of the first AH64A "Apache" helicopters in service with the Hellenic Army Aviation.



1A5GR "Leopard" tank. Many of these tanks, formerly in service with the German Army, and redundant according to the CFE Treaty, have been transferred to Allied Armies.

area of Valona. Can you tell us any lessons learned?

Greece took part in the peace keeping and humanitarian ALBA operation with a force at Regiment level (90 officers 690 other ranks). The lessons learned can be outlined as follows:

• the armed forces should be trained also for Peace Support Operations, which have further special requirements compared with article 5 operations. Furthermore, multinational interoperability should be a teaching topic at military Schools.

- bilateral agreements should address all aspects of logistics and be enforced since the very beginning, in particular referred to role 3 medical support.
- a number of English speaking officers should be included in the national delegation, but also a number of officers speaking the language of the Leading Nation and the Host Nation.
- criteria based on security and logistics should be agreed upon and complied with when selecting an area for the camp of the Peace Force.
- there must be extraordinary cooperation and mutual support among the multinational units.

But we basically learned that when a nation really supports another nation, this is welcomed by the local population with deep gratitude to the peace force. And we have got it many times in Albania.

Today about 3,000 women serve in the Hellenic Army. When did women first enter the army and what have they been allowed to? Are there major problems arising from the presence of women in the Hellenic Army?

The Hellenic Army has recruited women in Medical Service Since 1946. In 1977 a bill was passed allowing women to other branches of the Army. As a result, in 1979, for the first time, 80 women joined the army as enlisted volunteers with a 5-year contract. Since then, thanks to this successful experience, more women have joined the army.

Furthermore another bill was passed allowing a number of women to Officers and Non Commissioned Officers Military Academies and Schools. Today about 3,000 women serve in all branches of the Army as officers, warrant officers and Non Commissioned Officers. Our experience proves that women are as skilled as their male colleagues and very successful too.

As a result, military leaders are planning to increase the number of women in the army.

The Hellenic Army is based on a 95,000-men conscription. This service lasts in some cases up to 19 months and is one of the longest in NATO. Are you planning to reduce it?

The conscription service for enlisted in the Army lasts 18 months. At the moment we are not planning to reduce it, although benefit measures have been taken, including:

- partial service for the those living abroad permanently;
- a 3 to 12-month reduction and partial service for older soldiers;
- possibility to serve in the neighbourhood of the place of residence.
- reduced time for those who have serious family problems etc.

The Hellenic Army is making a great effort to have modern equipment and structures. Are there programmes under way concerning the Territorial



Above.Replacing the engine of a "Leopard" tank.

Below.

Russian-made BMP1 combat/transport armoured vehicle.



Defence Units and the National Guard? Will these units be more similar to the operational ones?

There are modernization programmes for all units of the Hellenic Army. Obviously those believed to be in critical areas come first. We planned to provide all of our units with the necessary equipment to carry out their missions.

In recent years the NATO member countries' defence budgets have been cut. On the contrary, Greece has increased it. Can you tell us about the guidelines for sharing the budget among the three services, considering that also Navy and Air Force have modernization programmes?

In Greece, the procurement of



T80s on parade. Some of these tanks have been procured in order to make evaluations, in view of the renewal of the whole tank line.

armaments for the three Services is implemented through a Defence Planning System issued by the Ministry of National Defence. The army requirements are consequently met according to a three-service list of priority decided by the National Defence General Staff and procured depending on the budget. In fact there are no special guidelines for sharing the budget and it is worth noting that the operational requirements of Armed Forces are met as a whole.

* Journalist

Gen. Paragioudakis was born in 1938, attended the military academy and was promoted Second Lieutenant in 1960. In 1993 he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant General. Gen. Paragioudakis attended a number of national and international military schools and has University Degrees in Political Science and Law. As an artillery Officer he has been assigned to important training and Staff posts during his career. Lieutenant General Paragioudakis has been awarded several decorations. He speaks fluent English and French, is married and has three children.

TODAY'S ABMY OF THE BEPUBLIE

by Enrico Magnani *

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Interview with the Commander in Chief of the Czech Army Major General Frantisek Hrabal In order to better know the Armed Forces of the Eastern European countries we held an interview with Major General Frantisek Hrabal, the Commander in Chief of the Czech Army. This interview gives a piece of information on the effort the Czech Republic is making to reorganise its Army.



General, the Czech Army is preparing to join NATO. What is the on-going reorganization aiming at?

The Czech Army has been divided into several forces and adjusted to NATO patterns, including Immediate Reaction, Rapid Reaction, Main Defence and Reserve Forces.

On April 1, 1999 an ABC Czech Company was earmarked for NATO Immediate Reaction Forces, meanwhile NATO Rapid Reaction Forces were assigned a Czech Emergency Brigade. The remaining mechanized Brigades of the army make up the bulk of the Main Defence Forces. We are shifting to NATO standards gradually and steadily as part of a long-term programme due to end by 2003.

The SFOR South West Multinational Division includes several units from the Czech Army which also took part in past Peace Support operations. Are there any lessons learned?

The Czech Armed Forces have been taking part in PK-Operations



The Spingot Anti Tank Missile Training System.

understand how NATO works.

since 1991 and I can say it has been a good experience, definitely. We have taken advantage of the lessons learned from UNPROFOR and UNCRO in Croatia to start with IFOR and SFOR within the SWMND in Bosnia-Herzegovina. UNPROFOR and UNCRO focused on autonomy at squad level meanwhile SFOR relied on autonomy at platoon and company level. At SWMND Headquarters the Czech Officers cooperated with their NATO colleagues and experienced NATO operational procedures. I am trying to make my best to have Officers and NCOs rotate every sixth month in order to have a widespread useful experience of such an international environment. It is also worth noting that the Czech army is giving an important contribution to UK Forces, which makes the experience more interesting and allows us to better

Recently Czech soldiers have participated in the Spain-based

Strong Resolve exercise. Can we take it as a general test for a

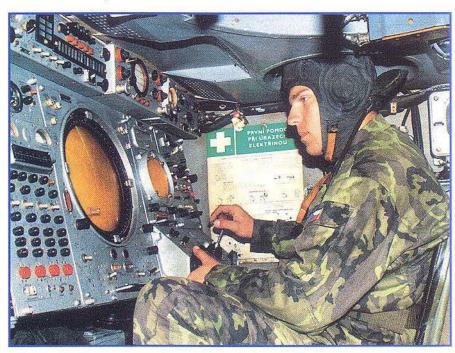
future integration into NATO?

Are there any benefits from

these international exercises?

Strong Resolve was a Command Post exercise also involving

The 2K 12M KUB Tank equipped with an antiaircraft system operated by a crew member.





Bosnia: MP Officer with soldiers from the 6th Mechanised Battalion participating in SFOR.

from different platoons countries. The mission focused on a crisis undergoing in an unidentified State. A Czech paratrooper platoon from the national Emergency Brigade took part in the exercise. During the first week our platoon got familiar with the rest of the multinational company and finally they conducted a common live fire exercise. During the second week the Czech platoon was tasked to work in the «Zaragoza» area and carried out its the mission as professionally as the other units. Thus Strong Resolve can be seen as a successful integration test.

Getting closer to NATO the Czech Republic has switched from the *Directed Leadership* concept to the *Mission Command* principle. The latter requires

more initiative from the soldiers who in fact must be able to make an effective operational analysis. What are the major changes in training and education?

Czech professional units have already experimented the new training programme based on NATO principles. Individual and sub-unit training will be emphasised and harmonised with the national doctrine which takes into account the revised tasks of the armed forces. Professionals and conscripts are being trained after NATO principles. Furthermore the quality of training is being

Land Rover Defender: Western-made equipment for the Czech Army.





Mine clearing.

enhanced by all-level international relationships.

NATO means also standard equipment. What about standardisation in the Czech army?

Communications and Data Transfer are two major priorities. But languages are an important issue as well.

The Czech army is aiming at balancing the number of volunteers and conscripts. How is this process developing? Are you going to recruit women?

The recruitment of volunteers started with Immediate Reaction and Rapid Reaction forces. They

Bosnia: NCO at the SFOR Communication Centre Grech.

are mainly made up of professional NOCs and long-term volunteers who will be squad and platoon leaders.

Generally speaking the

paratrooper mechanised battalion is expected to be fully manned by volunteers within 2001, and the Emergency Brigade within 2003.

The recruitment of women started after the parliament had passed the required legislation. Today women attending military academies are on the rise and they are mainly employed at Staff level. There are about 258 of them.

The Czech Republic separated from Slovakia peacefully. What did it change to the Army? Did you maintain any relationships with the Slovakian army?

Obviously there are good relationships. Visits at all levels are exchanged and common exercises are carried on using both Czech and Slovak training areas. For example September General Emil Vestenicky, Chief of the Slovak Army General Staff, visited the Czech army Headquarters where he was briefed on the current reorganisation and the reviewed institutional tasks. General





Honour Guard with the uniforms adopted in 1989.

Vestenicky also observed an exercise by the Emergency Brigade.

As to Defence and Security the Czech republic can refer not only to NATO but also to WEU, EUROFOR and the Italy-Hungary-Slovenia Force. Did you already contact these international organisations? Are you going to take part in the Austria-sponsored CENTCOOP?

Today the Czech army is not part of any international units. The Army Headquarters is not responsible for contacting international security organisations. The government, the Parliament, the officials in charge at the Department of Defence and the Czech Joint Staff will do it.

* Journalist

From 1976 to 1980 Major General Frantisek Hrabal attended High School at the Jan Zizka Military College in Opava. After that he attended the Military Technical School in Liptovsky Mikulas and was promoted to Second Lieutenant in the Signal Branch.

At the 1st Signal Regiment in Plzen he was platoon and company leader and in 1986 he attended the Military Academy in Brno.

In 1989 he was promoted to Major and appointed Chief of Staff of the 2nd Signal Regiment in Pisek.

In 1992 he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and commanded the 2nd Signal Brigade.

In 1995 he attended the Defence Resource Management Course in Monterey. Then he was promoted to Colonel and in 1996 appointed Chief of the Communication Development Department at the General Staff.

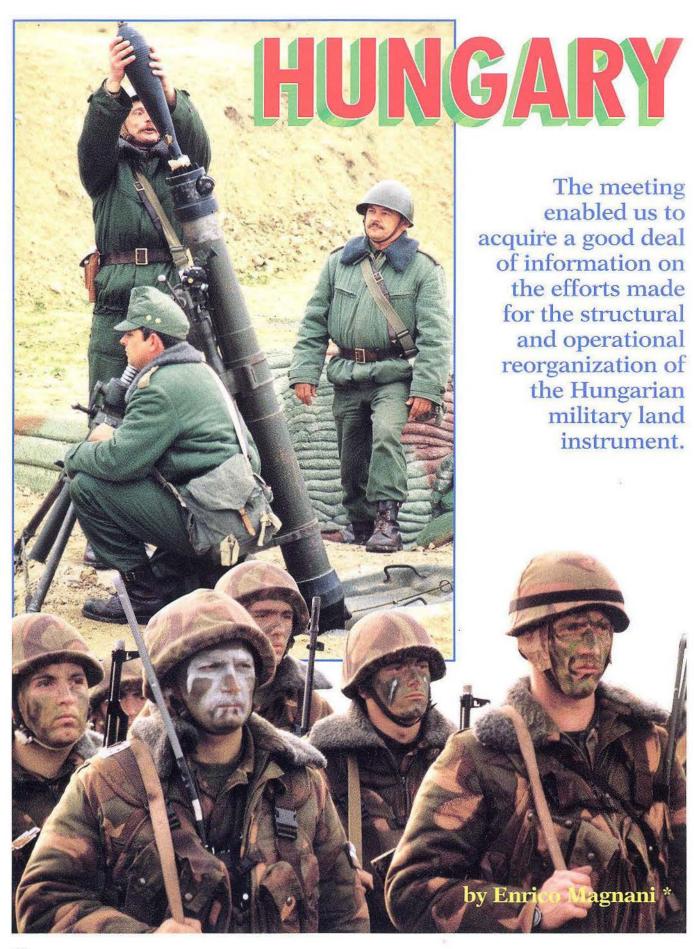
In 1997 he attended the National Defence University - National War College in Washington and won a Master of Science on Security Strategy.

After that he was in charge of the Communication Section (G6) at the Army General Staff and in 1998 was appointed Chief of Staff at the Operational Headquarters in Olomouc.

After this assignment he was promoted Major General and appointed Commander in Chief of the Czech Army in 1998.

Major General Frantisek Hrabal is married and has one daughter.

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THE NEW ARMY

Interview with General Ambrus Preininger Chief of the Army General Staff

technical transformation has been started; we commenced the elaboration of the doctrine for the land forces and the draft of the new regulations; we take an active part in the military programmes of the PfP, which are a remarkable help to our integration process.

What are the priorities of the Hungarian Army in order to achieve interoperability with the allied units?

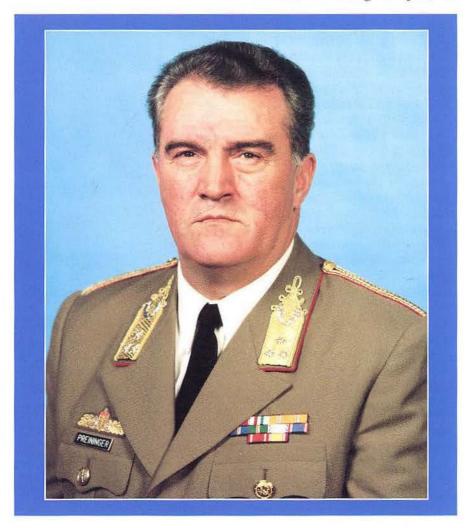
Before starting a job, a

General, Hungary has become an official member of the Atlantic Alliance. Could you summarize the programmes under way for the integration of the Hungarian Army into NATO?

One of the main foreign-policy objectives of the Republic of Hungary is the integration within Europe, and in particular the adhesion to the European Union and NATO. The organization I lead certainly has a role and very important tasks in this field. It is necessary to give military substance to the integration measures.

Conforming to military practice, I prefer to expound concrete data and summarize the measures adopted so far. Taking the NATO structures as models, we have reorganized the Army Staff - which is now able to communicate and cooperate with the Staffs of the other member Countries - as well as our command system and minor units.

As regards the latter, a rather long process of structural and



Commander fixes a priority order, pointing out the most urgent tasks and the ones that can be carried out at a later time. Clearly, in the present conditions of peace, we cannot overburden the economy of our countries, but it is also clear that the great number of tasks require a certain caution. I believe that NATO is perfectly aware of the situation: during the various meetings among NATO partners, the fact that integration is a long process has always underlined. It is a process in which it is necessary to establish a priority order of the tasks to be carried out.

Such an order permits to take a maximum advantage of the resources available, and helps the operators, charged with a quantity of urgent problems in the performance of their duties.

I must plan the work for the best use of the human resources. Therefore, we need to draft a real list of priorities. For example:

- to realize intellectual and technical compatibility (this is the most difficult part, because we do not deal with machines or tools, but with military men who, as individuals, think in different ways and express different interests);
- improve the knowledge of languages;
- obtain the national support;
- organize a high-level commandcontrol-communications system;
- integrate the antiaircraft defence with NATO;
- set up ready-intervention land forces and rapid-intervention forces:
- organize the exchage of information.

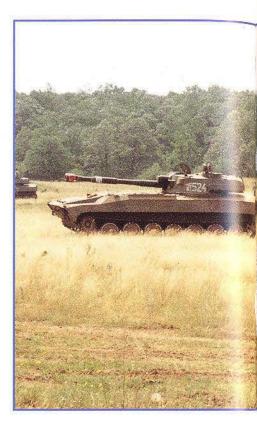
Nowadays many allied armies give great importance to the participation in peace-support operations. What are the present engagements of the Hungarian Army in this sector?

This is a pertinent and topical question, but I would like to

complete it, stating that not only the Alliance, but every progressive country, and Hungary among them, attributes a great significance to the peace missions.

Hungary wants to participate in the strengthening of the European security, and our Army takes part, in proportion to our means, in the peace missions of the UN, NATO and OSCE.

At the beginning, we participated in the UN missions only as observers. A great step forward was made in 1985, when we sent a basic unit to Cyprus, in the framework of the UNFICYP mission. The Austro-Hungarian collaboration of the successive years put us in the present condition of sending on a mission a company-level unit (107 men). Another significant result was achieved in 1995, when Hungary was assigned military police tasks,







Above.

Russian-made 122 mm 2S1 "Gvodizka" self-propelled guns.

Facing page.

Acrobatic paratroop-drop with "wing profile" parachute.

carried out by 38 elements specialized in this sector.

One of the greatest challenges of the past years was the participation in the IFOR-SFOR mission, organized and conducted by NATO under the UN aegis.

In that mission, the Hungarian Armed Forces, and the Army in particular, proved their capability of working under NATO guidance, successfully carrying out their tasks.

All these missions involved the participation of hundreds of Officers and NCOs.

One of your Engineer battalions is playing a very important role in the NATO Multinational Force in Bosnia. Do you envisage further foreseeable engagements,

possibly in defence of peace and stability?

To give you an answer, I would further subdivide the question: what could be the tasks of an Engineer battalion? What tasks can be assigned to the Army?

In the future, the economy of the resources and the operational rationality of NATO will lead us to tackle new tasks, whose nature will be established by the Government.

I can assure that we are getting ready to meet all the new challenges, which will not be only the technical ones.

Our main purpose remains that of proving, with the performance of professional tasks, that we are able to cooperate with the NATO Nations.

For instance, the Hungarian technical contingent, stationed at Okucani, Croatia, is included in the SFOR mission, and is showing its capability of carrying out, together with the Allies, its Peace-keeping assignments.

We want to express our will without assuming a provocative

attitude but with determination.

For peace we are ready to take on an active role, even at the cost of making sacrifices if necessary, in this area of Europe where conditions are so difficult.

We expect similar professional challenges also in the future. At present, the Engineer battalion is engaged in the construction and maintenance of bridges, in particular on the Sava and Bosna rivers, not only for the requirements of SFOR, but also for the civilian population.

The technical battalion takes care also of the maintenance of a pontoon-bridge, and is building another in the Doboj area. In the immediate future we will have to put back in operation several military bridges built in 1996, which are in need of technical overhaul because of the heavy traffic.

Our battalion is directly subordinate to the Corps, and one of its tasks is that of assuring at all times, winter included, the practicability of the roads assigned. Such a job, in the Bosnian mountains, can last for months.

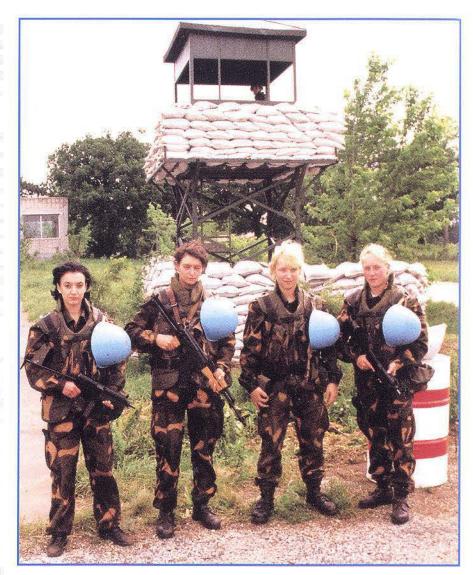
Besides the technical tasks just mentioned, the Hungarian battalion is also engaged in removing the debris of destroyed buildings, thus contributing to the reconstruction of the Country.

Hungary, together with Italy and Slovenia, is preparing a new multinational force, whose Headquarters will be in Udine, Italy. Although not yet assigned to NATO - since Ljubljana is a partner of PfP, but not a full member of the Alliance - do you believe that this force will strengthen the solidarity among the Nations close to NATO, in a region where there are still elements of instability?

The accord on the creation of an Italian-Slovenian-Hungarian multinational force was born at a meeting in Budapest on September 21-23,1998. On that occasion the executive agreement was reached, and was at the basis of the trilateral agreement signed by the Defence Minister of the three Countries in November 1998.

The next steps of this work will be aimed at preparing the participating forces, with exercises that will take place each time in a different Country. This is in itself already a form of collaboration. The trilateral force does not belong to NATO, but this does not make its role less important. Suffice it to think that also within the PfP, as shown by the tasks and exercises carried out so far, everything depends on the cooperation among the participants. Collaboration in the performance of the duties is the base of success.

My direct answer to your question is: yes, I believe that the Trilateral Headquarters can strengthen the cooperation between NATO and the bordering Nations. It is a plain answer, typical of a soldier, but I have a question for you too: what could be the ultimate purpose of the collaboration between NATO and a group of Nations, partners of the



Alliance, whose aim is the strengthening of European security, if it isn't the reinforcement of world security? Our relations can only be improved not by preparing ourselves to fight against each other but, on the contrary, by continuing our exercises, in order to achieve the best cooperation in maintaining peace and security.

Within the concept of the "capability packages" of a Service, the new doctrine gives a growing importance to the surveillance of the battlefield, the acquisition of data and information. What is the situation of the Hungarian Army in this area?

The new doctrine describes the





Above. Historical uniforms.

Facing page.

Army female personnel at the end of a peacekeeping exercise.

Below.

122 mm artillery piece.



road that through dialogue, collaboration and collective defence capabilities, leads to security, combining the political and military elements of NATO's policy. This doctrine is an integral part of the Alliance's strategy, and offers forms of cooperation to the Central European nations on their way to democratization.

In the changed conditions of security, the new military strategy describes not only the existing challenges and risks, but also the potential ones.

The capability of rapid reaction in case of crises or risk situations is determined, among other things, by effectiveness of the the reconnaissance activity. In order to meet this requirement, the members of the Alliance need a unitary and sound system for the acquisition of data and information.

Clearly the other members of NATO are much more advanced than we are, since they can avail themselves of both the national and the NATO systems. Linking up with various great-capacity

data banks they can gather precise information and electronically transmit them to Commands at all levels, both in peacetime and in the course of crisis or war.

The Hungarian Supreme Military Command is aware of the high priority attributed to reconnaissance within the "capability packages" and has already taken the measures necessary to implement the directives of compatibility and interoperability (it is a question of learning and adopting NATO's reconnaissance bases procedures, using the computer and transmission systems, updating the information acquisition system, making systems and procedures compatible in order to connect them with each other, and setting up the elements necessary for the forecast and warning system).

Our commitment has been underlined also by the Chief of Staff of the Hungarian Armed Forces in his presentation on the occasion of the meeting of the NATO Military Committee in May 1998, to which also the three Chiefs of Staff of the Nations in

the adhesion phase were invited for the first time.

What changes will be produced by the adhesion to NATO?

We have analyzed with care our present capabilities, and made proposals for the modernization of structures, equipment, technical instruments and elements for the of acquisition data and information of the Army Staff, in order to be able to work well also in the changed security conditions, both nationally and within the Alliance, as well as in cooperation with other organizations of the member Nations.

We have no shortage of human resources. The professional preparation is constant, in particular as concerns the reconnaissance forces. In 1999 we have commenced the preparation of the information-reconnaissance system by creating the conditions of compatibility with the corresponding NATO systems; this phase of the process will be

concluded by the end of the year 2000. Taking into account the financial problems, we shall concentrate our attention mainly on the modernization of the equipment and techno-scientific instruments already in our inventory. We will probably deal with the units after 2003.

Which are the elite units of the Hungarian Army?

There is never been a distinction of this kind amongst the troops of the Hungarian Armed Forces although, with the performance of different tasks, a healthy spirit of competition exists among the units. In any case a special mention is deserved by the 34th Recce Battalion, the 88th Rapid Intervention Battalion and the 25th Mechanized-Artillery Brigade which, in the last years, has proved many times its capability of cooperating also with Czech and Polish units.

In this perspective, I can say that





Ahove

Air-cooperation exercise with an Air Force MI 17 "Hip" helicopter.

Left

Training with a D44 85 mm antitank gun.

all the formations earmarked for the multinational contingents are elite units.

How long have female personnel been in the Army?



What are the roles assigned to women? What problems were caused by their inclusion in the Service?

The Army, because of its special commitments of a moral, physical and psychological nature, is a traditionally male institution. Throughout history, women's main task has been that of taking care of children and the household. With time, separate professions have thus taken shape: if a woman chose

a typically masculine job, she was considered with bewilderment, almost as a kind of witch. This was true also for the Army.

On the other hand, women have taken up arms in many critical moments of Hungarian history; for example, Katica Dobò and the women of Eger castle in 1552, Ilona Zrínyi, who for three years (1685-1688) defended Munkács castle, "Lieutenant Maria" who, disguised as a man, fought bravely during the liberation war

(1848-49), etc.

Anyway, the tragic human losses suffered during the two World Wars, modernization and the democratization process have modified the conception of fighter and soldier. This occurred also in Hungary. Not only physical qualities have acquired importance, the intellectual but also capabilities. This, in the Army, has produced jobs that can be carried out by men and women alike. I refer to Medical Service. Education, Administration and Personnel.

Therefore we had to review the entire mobilization system, in order to make up for the losses suffered in the two wars.

The military service for women is regulated by laws which specify what tasks they can carry out, both in peacetime and in time of war.

Women have always been present in the Hungarian Armed Forces albeit, up to WWII, in a limited number.

The transformations in the Armed Forces laid the foundations for a new economy of human resources. Following the example of NATO, the ratio between Officers and NCOs has changed, and voluntary service has been introduced. The Constitution and the new Regulations provide the legal framework for these changes.

Since the end of 1995, the



Above.
Mechanized infantry with BMP1.

Military ceremony at an infantry unit. Since 1989 the old military traditions have been rediscovered.

number of women in the Army has increased remarkably. Many serve in Headquarters as noncommissioned officers.

At the operational units manned by volunteers, women often carry out typically male jobs (i.e. in antitank, missile or machine gun units). Many women apply for posts in technical contingents or peace missions.

The female personnel in the Army works with honesty and precision. They want to prove their worth and are as reliable as the men. A problem is posed by female NCOs introduced into the units without an adequate military preparation, be it basic or specialistic; sometimes physical characteristics could be a problem as regards, for example, physical-training tests.

The employment of women in the Armed Forces does not follow, as yet, precise rules. Often it happens that a female NCO obtains more than a male colleague, since she does not have the same professional obligations: the fact that she is a woman is considered more important then her rank or her position.

In several cases the recruitment of women is not possible for financial resons (quarters, sanitary and recreation facilities etc). Frequently, women decide to join the Armed Forces because of social coercion.

In the future, we will have to:

- eliminate the difficulties connected with the increasing number of women, providing the opportunities fixed by law, so that they can have the same rights and duties as the men;
- specifically qualify the female personnel assigned to NATO.

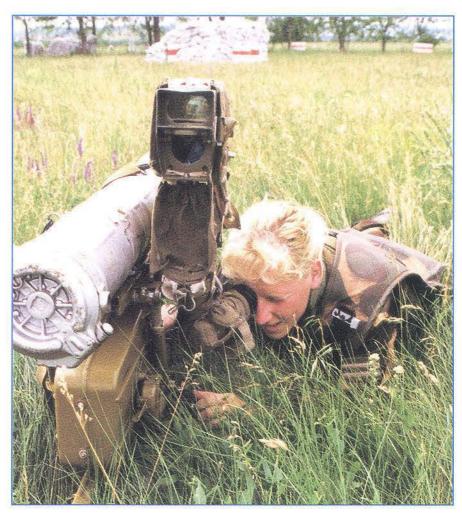
Are there plans for the future assignment of Hungarian units to other allied operational Commands, such as ARRC and AMF-L? Is a contribution to the main defence forces envisaged?

As is known, in July 1997 Hungary was invited to join the political and military organization of NATO. This means that, once we become full members of the Alliance, we'll participate in its political and military organization, with all the resulting rights and duties. My job is just that of preparing the Army for its integration with the Allied Commands.

I am not really disclosing any secret if I say that there are intense negotiations on the times and ways of the integration. This will be our next target.

Can the "Balaton '97" exercise be considered a test for the improvement of interoperability between Hungarian and Allied land forces? What were the "lessons learned" in this type of exercise?

Exercise "Balaton '97" included



Fire training with "Spigot" A/T missile system.

the participation of the Italian "Centauro" Brigade, a Hungarian mechanized platoon from the 25th "Klapka Gyrgy" Brigade and an artillery battery from Szigetvár's 101st "Zrínyi Miklòs" Brigade.

Interoperability was extremely good: the Hungarian units adjusted well to the working system of the Italians, and performed their tasks without problems.

The Italian Command commented with satisfaction the cooperation with the Hungarian units.

The international scenario has brought about remarkable reductions in the Hungarian Army, as in many others, especially as regards personnel. What were the guidelines followed in the realization of these programmes?

The main purpose is that of

creating Armed Forces based on national traditions in the spirit of democratic institutions, capable of meeting the requirements typical of the end of the 20th century. In this transformation process, it is important to establish a military organization open to future developments, founded on up-to-date intellectual and technical capabilities. One of the elements of these modern Armed Forces is precisely the Army. The international and internal changes occurred in the '90s, as well as the radical transformations on the scene of European security have forced - and made possible - the restructuring of the Armed Forces.

First of all, we transformed the military instrument into an "organization for defence". The

objective was the creation of a force capable of expressing the Country's capabilities, smaller compared to the past, but more modern and more credible. A force able to safeguard the national institutions and interests, to manage low-intensity conflicts, crisis situations and to intervene in case of disasters, to fulfill the obligations connected with the international treaties and capable of easy integration within the NATO structures.

Applying the appropriate legislative measures, Hungary established a mixed system of conscripts and volunteers, dividing its land forces into the following structural elements, which meet the modern requirements:

- · reaction forces;
- main defence forces;
- territorial-defence forces and reserve.

The reaction forces are constituted by troops on alert status and by rapid-intervention troops, consisting largely of professionals and contract volunteers.

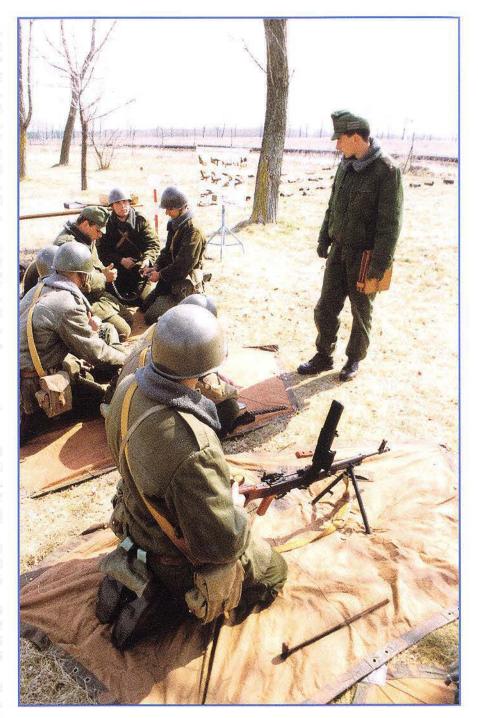
The main defence forces include the mobilization combat troops as well as those in support.

Among the tasks of the territorial-defence forces are the defence of the rearlines and the various services, while the reserve forces replace the losses.

As regards the future, the tasks of the Hungarian Armed Forces, and of the Army in particular, can be summarized as follows:

- safeguard of free institutions and national security, with a deterrent power;
- participation in regional conflicts and management of crisis situations both within and without the territory of the Allied countries;
- reaction to attacks against NATO countries.

All this can be included in the



following tasks:

- collective defence;
- strengthening of peace;
- national security (non-war military operations such as the prevention of disasters, search and rescue, fight against terrorism, etc.).

The Italian Army is increasing its professional component, and the conscription time has recently been reduced to 10

Preparation for fire training with automatic weapons.

months. What is the situation in Hungary in relation to the professionalization of the Army? Will conscription remain in force?

Reduction of conscription and voluntary service are an international trend, which shows the will to create Armed Forces smaller in size, but more efficient and on an almost completely professional basis.

Also in Hungary there is a strong tendency towards the elimination of conscription and the reduction of its length.

As far as the Army is concerned, in 1997, after the conclusion of the qualitative modifications, a nine-month conscription was introduced, while basic and specialized training centres for conscripts were established. Conscription is based on threemonth echelons, which guarantee a regular and continuous flow of soldiers to the operational units. This system permits to distribute the engagements in a balanced way, as well as to envisage a reserve, necessary in case of mobilization, and periodic call-ups for training.

At the present time, the Army consists of 14,388 conscripts and 3,238 contract volunteers, for a total of 17,626 elements, of which 6,581 are on training at the various Centres.

The conscripts of the different Branches now on duty at the operational units are 7,537; they mix well with the volunteers, and assure the operativeness of the units.

The replacement of conscripts with volunteers, or soldiers belonging to other categories, would increase the operational capability of the units, but would entail considerable costs.

In order to achieve this, it is necessary, first of all, to define the ratios of the Armed Forces' personnel, both in the medium and in the long term. As regards the first phase, i.e. within 2003, we envisage the introduction of about 10,000 volunteers.

The institution of the so-called "contract conscription" depends on the political will. This change would influence all the structures of the Armed Forces, including the reserve service. Last but not least, doubts could arise about the social usefulness of

Lieutenant General Ambrus Preininger was born in Budapest in 1944.

In 1966 he completed his studies at the Armoured Troops Unified Officer School, and for seven years has been Commander of several minor units.

After attending the inter-branch course at the Zrinyl Miklòs Military Academy, in 1976 was assigned to the Nagyatad Armoured Regiment, where he held the positions of Chief of Staff, Deputy Commander and Commander. From 1986 to 1988 he attended the General Staff Course in Moscow and, on his return to Hungary, was appointed Chief, Operational Training Section at the 5th Army Headquarters. The following year Gen. Preininger became Commander of the 2nd Mechanized Corps, in 1991 Commander of the 2nd Military District and, in 1994, Commander of the Land Forces. In 1997 was appointed Chief of the Army General Staff.

Lt.Gen. Ambrus Preininger has been awarded the Officer Cross of the Order of Merit, is married and has two children.

maintaining conscription. The decisions in this sector will affect the future of the Armed Forces, and that of the Army in particular. But radical changes should be introduced also in other professional fields.

It must be specified that conscripts cannot be employed in immediate and rapid intervention forces, and that volunteers assure a better performance also in peacetime.

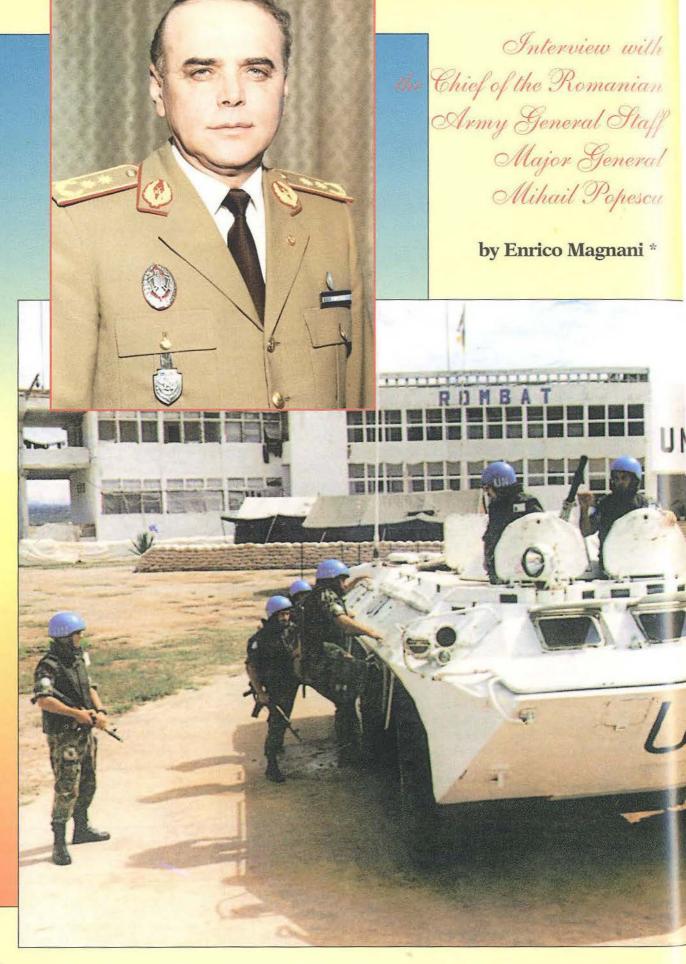
With a system based on volunteers - disregarding numbers - we would have full-strength units, operational at all times. An Army no more based on conscription can be gradually realized in the space of 10-15 years, if the government guarantees the appropriate economic resources.

In fact, the transformations we

are discussing depend on the economic situation of the Country, the labour market, the completion of the integration process, the legislative changes, the technical and infrastructural modernization process, the training and specialization system, the career opportunities, the organizational structures, the autonomous organization of recruitment, the rise of professionalism.

We can gradually and successfully obtain a professional military force, only if, on the labour market, we are able to guarantee high-level salaries, equipment and careers, also in comparison to the civilian world.

*Journalist



ROMANIA THE NEW ARMY



ROMANIA IS A WEU ASSOCIATED PARTNER AND IS MAKING A GREAT EFFORT TO REORGANISE ITS ARMED FORCES.

IT IS AIMING AT AN ARMY COMPLYING WITH EUROATLANTIC PROCEDURES AND OPERATIONAL STANDARDS.

Would you tell our readers the changes the Romanian Army will face from the organisational and operational point of view in the near future?

One of Romania's major goals is to integrate itself into the Euro-Atlantic security organisations and preserve its national interests. In this respect the integration of Romania into NATO is of basic importance. Romanian army is therefore being deeply and widely reorganised in order to have it combat-ready and NATO-oriented within the shortest time.

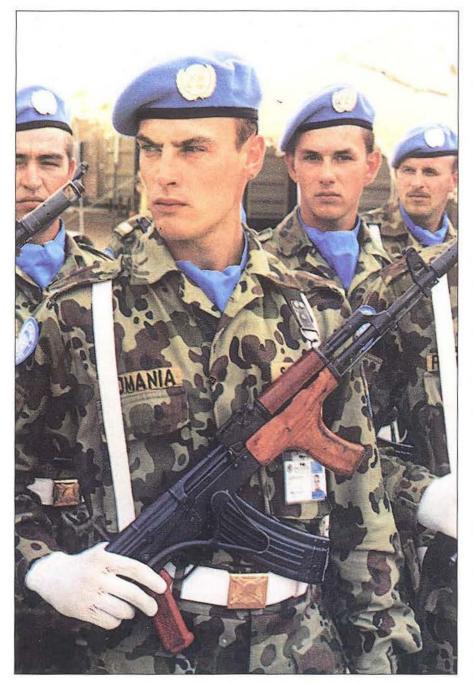
In the meanwhile we do not want to lose our people's trust. More that 80 per cent of the population rely on us and we make our best for them.

The army accounts for 65 per cent of the Armed Forces and is being re-organised in order to dispose of:

· an inter-branch-modular organisation

(which means that artillery, engineer, NBC, etc. will be modular as to personnel, reconnaissance, operations, logistics, international and civil-military cooperation, telecommunications, training, planning, etc.).

- an operational force based on combat-ready brigades, including 4 mechanised, 1 armoured, 1 mountain, 1 air-mobile, 1 artillery, 1 air-defence artillery and 2 logistics. All or part of them will be committed to an operational two-division Army-Corps Command during crises. This structure will also include a 48-to-72-hour-ready Rapid Reaction Force.
- a reserve force made up of 3 or 4 territorial army corps, including mountain, armoured, artillery, airdefence artillery, and logistics territorial brigades. They will be operational on call.
- · surveillance and early warning



Soldiers from the 812th infantry battalion.

revised and staff included into an inter-branch modular system which relies on interconnected training and education centres.

Many people are taking part in this process which is of basic importance to the modernisation of Romanian Army.

Generally it is believed that thanks to PfP Eastern and Western European Armed Forces will interface. Is it true?

Yes, it is right. PfP put an end to isolation and helped us realised that we are competitive. New training and procedures have been implemented and in this respect we understood that professionals are better than conscripts.

There is a widespread tendency in Europe to increase professionals and reduce conscripts. What is your trend?

Traditions cannot be left aside. In Romania when you have not served in the military you will hardly merry or make business or run for politics.

Obviously we prefer professionals although it depends on the units: 7 out of 10 for operational units and 3 out of 10 within territorial units.

As far as we know there is female recruitment in Romania, especially for technical and logistical units. How are they doing and what other tasks will they be given in the future?

This is not correct. There are a few women in the Army but there is no female recruitment. Constitutionally women have no military obligations but we know that when they have the desire to

forces made up of all kinds of action-ready reconnaissance units.

- a new and modern training system.
- a new operational doctrine for facing the latest challenges.
- new training and evaluation standards.
- an improved equipment as a result also of cooperation with industry on a license-based agreements.

These are the issues at stake

included into a two-step programme which first (2003) aims at reorganising and then (2007-2010) at improving our equipment.

The Romanian army has been working hard to comply with NATO standards. Would you tell us about the major steps and the greatest efforts?

We made important steps to reorganise and set clear tasks for a 62,000-man Army. Doctrine was



In 1994 also the Romanian Army took part in the UNOSOM II mission in Somalia.

serve the Country, this cannot be denied to them: 50 per cent of the population is female and they can be an added value to the armed forces. Not only can they work in logistics and technical units but also where no special physical strength is required. Evidently women's virtues perfectly fit into hierarchical the military organisation and they can make a lot for it in terms of organisation and patriotism. For the time being there is no particular requirement to be met. So when it is asked



Bosnia, the North Doboj Bridge built by Romanian engineers.

Angola, Romanian soldiers on surveillance duty in Angola.

former Yugoslavia, Angola, Kuwait. Were there lessons learned from this international experience?

In our Army there are 4 Battalions oriented to international operations and all of them have taken part in the aforesaid missions successfully. From their experiences we learned that changes were necessary as to doctrine, organisation, training, command, control, equipment, logistics, etc.

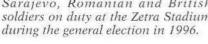
Romania joined the Western European union as an associated partner. What does it mean? Is the Romanian Army going to take part in the multinational exercises led by the Western European Union?

Usually Armies are assigned their

female recruitment will be implemented as soon as possible.

During the last years Romanian troops have taken part in several Peace Support operations under the umbrella of international organisations: Albania, the

Sarajevo, Romanian and British soldiers on duty at the Zetra Stadium



Romanian Officers and General Forlani, Commander of Operation "Alba".

tasks by governments. That is also in Romania and we do our best to meet the requirements set by politicians. Romania is a constitutional state and there is no doubt that the Army is only a part of it which belongs to political decisions.

I would like to thank "Rivista Militare" for giving me this opportunity which I hope to have again in the future in order to talk more about the common future of our armed forces.



* Journalist

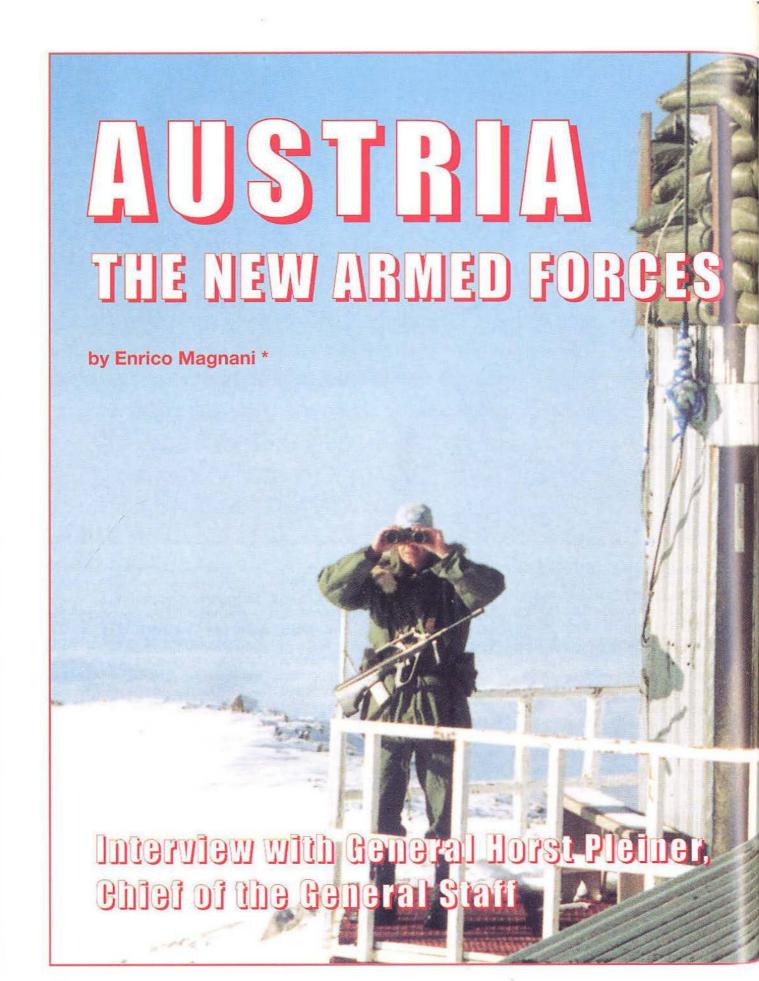
Major General Mihail Eugeniu Popescu was born on April 1, 1948.

He attended the Military Accademy where he became leader of the Artillery course. Promoted to First Lieutenant in 1969, he was on regimental duty and served at the Artillery Training Centre. As a captain, he was battery Commander and deputy Battalion-Commander. With the rank of Colonel, he commanded the 135th Artillery Regiment and attended the Academy for High Military Studies, the postgraduate Staff Course, the National Defence College and, as a General, the NATO Defence College in Rome. Gen. Popescu was Artillery Commander of the 81st Mechanized Division and of the 4th Army (Transylvania), Artillery Inspector and Director of the "Doctrine and Training Department" of the Defence General Staff.

Gen. Popescu has been Chief of Staff since 1997.

He is a graduate in military science and was awarded several medals and Orders of Merit.

Major General Eugeniu Popescu is married and has a daughter.





General, the Austrian Armed Forces have almost completed a complex reform plan. Can you show the readers of "Rivista Militare" the Army for the next Century?

The political and strategic situation in Europe and budget restrictions required an adaption of the organization of the Austrian Armed Forces. Consequently, the new organization has been designed to provide the best military solution to develop our armed forces in the right direction. The strategic situation, the current missions and missions in the not too distant future require rapidly available forces, for international operations. You have mentioned that we have finished our reform of the 1990, and now we are about to assess further developements in two directions: on the one hand we have the political instruction to prepare the right decision whether we will continue to have armed forces on the basis of conscription or change our system to a more professional one. On the other hand the EU has decided in Helsinki in 1999 to build up forces of a strength of about 50,000 to 60,000 troops to be available for Petersburg-Missions (Peace Support Operations); Austria as a member of the EU has to participate in this developement and by this we have to prepare a force of 1.800-2.000 troops. I am not able to predict the developement of our armed forces for the next century, but within the next years we will become more professional and the speed of this developement will depend on the political decisions.

The Austrian Armed Forces have great experience on peacekeeping under the UN flag. More recently, units of the Army took part in the Multinational Protection Force in Albania and now in Bosnia and Kosovo. Why

Austria ratified the, Amsterdam Treaty and decided to take part in the enhanced Partnership for Peace activities of NATO as well. Therefore it is an obligation for Austria to take part in peace support operations in the framework of the international community. Austria was traditionally very strongly involved in peacekeeping missions under the flag of the UN. After the end of the Cold War a lot of different conflicts spread over the whole world. The increasing number of crises required the intervention of international organisations or single states as

Support Command (AIPSC) is situated at Gotzendorf some 30 Km southeast of Vienna. Though there is a decentralized responsibility throughout the whole armed forces recruitment and preparation of troops assigned to peace support operations, the AIPSC is the main organization of the Austrian Armed Forces to guarantee our participation in international and multinational tasks especially by preparation. organisation and completion of peace support operations. The AIPSC is the home base and the training centre for peace support operations for all Austrian contingents and since autumn 1999 has been also a Partnership for Peace-Training Centre. It is also the centre institutional for verification tasks in Austria and abroad.

Austria plays a great role in the regional cooperation in security and defence matters, promoting the CENCOOP with Hungary, Slovenia, Romania, the Czech Republic and Slovakia. Which are the targets and perspectives of this arrangement?

The aim of the Central European Nations Cooperation (CENCOOP) is to improve the capabilities of the participating Nations in order to respond more effectively to peace support operations challenges and to achieve a higher training level through regional cooperation. Objectives are the exchange of views and lessons learned. cooperation in the field of training, logistics and related procedures by standardization and resource sharing, harmonization of policies and doctrines, conduct of common exercises and cooperation in other fields. For the moment the realization projects are to establish a CENCOOP Military Observer Pool, a CENCOOP Military Police, Interoperability Objectives and Standardization Agreements and a CENCOOP Standby Register with a modular composition of preestablished multinational units.



is Austria so deeply involved in peace support operations and which lessons have you learned?

During the Cold War one part of our active policy of neutrality was the participation in UN-led peacekeeping missions. In 1991 we learned what it means to have war close at the borders because of ethnic conflicts as consequence of the end of the Cold War. We have learned that stability within Europe is essential for our security and therefore our main aim of security policy is conflict prevention and peace support.

The Pandur Personnel Carrier for motorized units is the vehicle which many foreign Armies are equipped with.

Lead Nations under the legitimation of the UN.

Some years ago the Austrian Armed Forces have opened in Vienna a training school-for personnel assigned to peacekeeping operations. Can you briefly show us the programmes, objectives and perspectives of this school?

The Austrian International Peace



Women in the Army account for 5% today.

Nevertheless the overall situation has changed and we think that it would be preferable to reconsider the objectives of CENCOOP in the near future.

For forty years, Austria was forced into neutrality. Now we have a new political landscape and the situation has changed completely. In which way Austria may change her security and defence policy, while several countries of the region are members of NATO or have a hope to become members?

Neutrality was a main factor of our foreign policy in the last 45 years and it was always only a military neutrality. After the end of the Cold War our strategic situation began to change and is still changing. As you mentioned Austria will be surrounded by NATO-members or neutral countries within the next years. Austria is ambitionally taking part in the PFP-Programm and is an observer within the WEU. Our new coalition parties have agreed that Austria will take part in the new developements of the EU concerning the building of armed forces to realize all Petersberg Missions if necessary. In this case our neutrality could be overruled by decisions of the EU member states and the Austrian government; a national referendum will be necessary. In all other cases military neutrality will also be in the future one principle of our foreign policy. A NATO membership of Austria is not of relevance to the present situation.

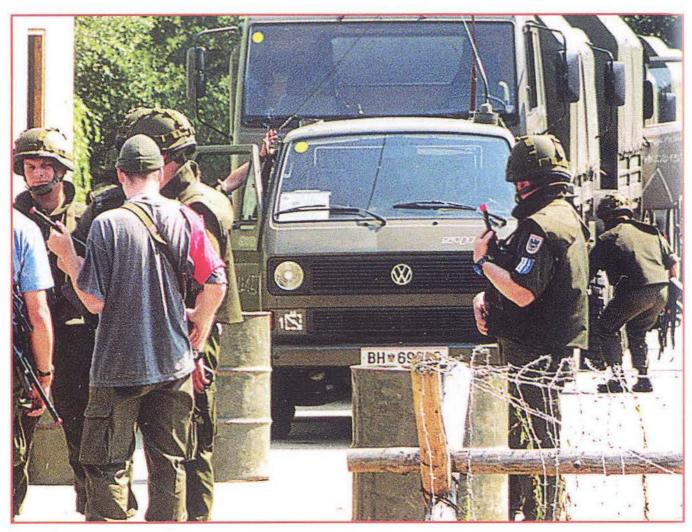
Although Austria is not part of NATO, it is strongly involved in the Partnership for Peace. Can you summarize for us the work in this program? What will be the future of the participation of the Austrian Armed Forces in PfP?

In 1999 Austria participated in PfP exercises and one NATO exercise,

which was opened to partner nations. For 2000 it is planned to participate in some exercises too.

These exercises are possibilities to train Austrian soldiers of all ranks to reach interoperability in all areas, in Major NATO Command's Tasks and in land operations. The second reason is to familiarize Austrian staff personnel with international staff procedures, ROEs, SOPs, logistics and communications by participation in relevant PfP seminars and workshops, CPX, CAX and FTX. Because of bugdetrestraints we will participate in only one live exercise a year.

The most important topic is to develop common understanding of PSO and enhance military interoperability objectives by training commanders and staff in staff procedures necessary to conduct PSO with MM HQs and Response Cells. In addition we are sending officers to the Swedish International Centre to take part in International Staff Exercises (PKO and PSO). All in all we are trying to



Army vehicles driving through a Check Point.

prepare Austrian soldiers to be ready to work in Combined Joint HOs and Task Forces.

Nowadays we are confronted with the increase of the so-called non-military threats as illegal immigration and actions of criminal and terrorist groups. What may be the role of military forces in this environment? Do you think that the involvement of military forces in these matters could be useful?

Austria has great experience in this field. According to a state law the main task of the Austrian Armed Forces is indeed the military defence of the Austrian territory but further tasks are for instance disaster relief, humanitarian aid or other assistance to the executive authorities.

Since 1991 the Austrian Armed Forces have had permanently about 2000 troops deployed at the eastern border of the country in order to prevent illegal border crossing.

Since the establishment of the armed forces not a single time there was a year without comprehensive employments. For the armed forces this kind of employment is part of their tasks and they are trained for every sort of mission. Therefore the involvement in these matters does not change their nature. But the real problem is public opinion. The public especially which is involved in such non military threats - and therefore also mass media and politicians demand equipment, training and preparation of the

armed forces for these matters. They doubt about preparations for an unlikely military defence.

In Europe, Austria together with Italy, Switzerland, France, Germany, Spain and Romania have mountain units in their order of battle. How does the future of this kind of units look like? In which direction should they evolve?

Even though there is a «revolution in military affairs» and a technological revolution, we cannot ignore the influence of geography. Austria like the other mentioned countries has high mountain regions. In order to manage tasks in peacetime as well as wartime it is therefore necessary to have available appropriate equipped and trained troops.

Austria can see the necessity of

International commitments have increased also for Austria.

mountain units; we have deployed a unit on the Golan heights in a peacekeeping operation under UN flag. Geography does not change. All the technological developments cannot compensate this kind of units, therefore they will play an important role also in the future.

Austria has adopted an original defence model based on the militia system. Which elements characterise this system? What will be the future of this system in relation with the evolution of conscription in your country?

In Austria the militia system means that the main strength of combat forces evolves through mobilization of Reserve Forces. Till 1992 most parts of the peacetime organization were only used for training purposes and all greater military missions relied on mobilization. The wartime strength was about 220,000 soldiers.

That has changed significantly. The peacetime force structure nowadays has at any time approximately 10,000 soldiers in readiness plus 5,000 additional reserves available without mobilization. The remainder of the armed forces is in the training phase or organized as cadre-forces. After mobilization the strength of the Austrian Armed Forces is about 100 000 soldiers.

As in other nations there is an ongoing political discussion about the end of conscription in Austria. The working program of the new governement has installed a commission of experts, whose task it is to assess the conditions which are essential to finish our system of conscription.

* Journalist



General Horst Pleiner was born on November 14, 1941 in Salzburg, where he completed his pre-university studies in 1959. The same year he enlisted in the 29th Infantry Battalion. From 1960 to 1963 he attended the Military Academy in Wiener Neustadt, graduating at the top of his course, and was assigned to the Saalfelden Infantry School. He served as Deputy Commander of the Reserve Officer Training Company and instructor for heavy infantry weapons and, later, as chief instructor for anti-tank defence and staff officer training.

In 1972 he graduated, first in his class, from the three-year General Staff Officer Course at the National Defence Academy in Vienna, and was assigned to Gruppenkommando III in Salzburg as G3, and then CoS, chief instructor for logistics, tactics and staff officer training at the National Defence Academy.

In 1978 he served at the MOD Operations Division as Officer in charge of operational control, and subsequently assumed the command of the 22nd Militia Training Regiment. In 1986 he returned to MOD, where he became Head of the Operations Divisions.

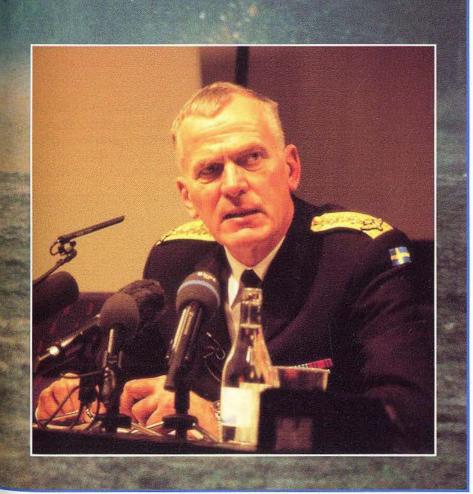
In 1999, he was appointed Deputy Chief of Defence and, after his promotion to General on January 1, 2000, Chief of the Defence Staff. General Horst Pleiner has written and published several articles and essays on weapon systems and other defence - related matters.

SIMIED EN THE NEW ARMED FORCES

by Enrico Magnani *

Interview with General Owe Erik Axel Wiktorin, Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces

Sweden is future-oriented and has decided for light and flexible Armed Forces to face international commitments. This and much more in the interview with the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces.



General, can you make a description for the readers of "Rivista Militare" of the Royal Swedish Army of the next Century? What will be differences with the land force of today?

The cold war is over and the technical development is undergoing a revolution. New technologies create new potentials at the same time as they create new threats. Modern society is vulnerable with its dependence on information, finance and communications systems

Information technology is radically changing the conditions for the development of military organisations and resources. Combat forces of conventional type will continue to be of great importance, providing the basis not only for a country's defence but also for peacekeeping and peace enforcement.

The capacity for armed combat will continue to be the governing factor for the development of the Swedish Armed Forces. Armed combat sets high demands on competence, equipment quality, command and communications. If the Armed Forces are to be able to meet a broad threat spectrum in the future, the organisation must be made more flexible. The trend is towards powerful, mobile units that can be used as various types of task forces at short notice.

The aim is a long-term development of the Armed Forces



towards a goal based on future needs and potentials. For this reason, the Armed Forces will be given a new orientation as a basis for further development aiming more towards the future than towards the decence from an invasion as it was during the Cold War. In the future, the Armed Forces should comprise operational task forces as well as protective forces. The operational task forces must have the ability to conduct co-ordinated operations and to cooperate with other parties in international operations. They should be developed from today's operational units to meet changing threats and risk scenarios. The Armed Forces must be able to repel an armed attack and to defend the country's territorial integrity and support the community under difficult

conditions in peacetime.

The Swedish Army has a great experience on the field of peacekeeping, started with the League Nations, followed by a lot of commitments with the UN and now with troops in Bosnia and Winter 1994. A UNPROFOR patrol of Swedish soldiers.

Kosovo. Why is Sweden so deeply involved in these operations and what lessons have been learned?

For a long time the Swedish



"Patria 180" APC, made in Finland and in service with SWEBAT in Bosnia.



characteristics. Do you think that this new humanitarian approach will change even more in the near future?

In accordance with the PfP agreement, Sweden participates in joint exercises with other Nations, in order to promote interoperability and to ensure the possibility of setting up multinational forces capable of carrying out Peace Support Operations. A clear indication that things are changing can be seen in the Balkans, where one can feel the need for a clear coordination between civil organizations and the military.

Civil-Military Cooperation (CIMIC) is now a priority in Bosnia Herzegovina. Sweden has redeployed its battalion but continues to operate in the CIMIC sector. Up to now, CIMIC has not been considered within the PfP exercises.

Sweden, neutral since the pas Century, during the Cold War

Training at the Army Peace-Operations School.

developed an original defence model employing great resources to defend the country from any invasion. Now the concept of force projection is the cornerstone of the contemporary thinking. Do you share this emphasis?

The adhesion to PfP was a natural step for Sweden. It is a way to create peace and stability, as well as to join peoples together. The Swedish people have wide daily relations with all Countries in the world in many sectors: political, cultural, economic, industrial, commercial, etc. So, as physicians and students are generally considered a unique reality, it would be good if similar relations were established also in the military field, in order to foster the process of peace and understanding.

Looking at the past as well as at the recent events in Kuwait, Somalia, the Balkans and Timor, peacekeeping seems to be changing some of its theoretical

people have taken part, in a special

way, in the activities concerning

human rightts, and our political

leaders have been active in the UN since its foundation. Therefore, our

participation in Peace Support Operations in several countries was

a natural process. We gained a lot of

experience and learned that those

operations must be based on a doctrine. Sweden has had a joint

doctrine for PSOs for about two

years. However, there is still much

to be learned, and future operations will have to be considered and

studied in a process structured

according to the lessons learned, in

order to know more, and to

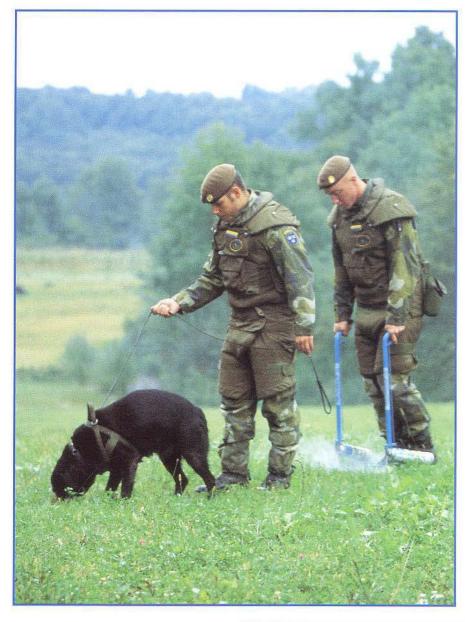
establish a basis upon which new

conceptions can be developed. All

our experiences are entered in a

"lessons learned" data base.

Army specialists clearing a minefield.



active instrument in security policy has increased in recent years. The ability to prevent or reduce conflicts before they spread is of benefit to the security of Europe and Sweden. As a results, Sweden is developing its international activities and the Armed Forces must respond to this increased demand.

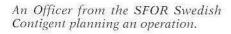
What will be the operational capability of the Swedish Army after the planned cut of 7 Brigades (out of 13), 15 regiments, 2000 officers, plus 6000 soldiers and around 1000 civilians?

We have not yet received the exact figures but the operational capability will be leaner with great flexibility to meet different threats. We have competent personnel and the equipment will be of very high technical standard. However, the Armed Forces will have to expand in order to prepare for possible a large-scale attack. The Armed Forces will also be designed to meet the increasing demand for international operational crisis control.

Several countries, among which Italy, are oriented towards all-volunteer Armed Forces, and,

Several members of the EU, in which Sweden participates, expressed their will to .strengthen the European pillar of NATO. How can this be compatible with Stockholm's wish not to enter permanent military Alliances?

It is a political question but, the objective of security policy - to preserve a country's freedom and independence - remains steadfast. At the same time, the political ambition of using the Armed Forces as an







A Viking camouflaged for winter. In a short time all Swedish mechanized units will be equipped with this system.

at the same time, are reducing the number of conscripts and the duration of conscription. The Swedish Army has a large conscript component, how do you consider this trend?

The conscript training system must be changed. We now have an ongoing debate in Sweden and we are reviewing the conscript system. The ability of the Armed Forces to carry out their duties must form the basis of the training system. The new structure requires a more flexible system and the training of conscripts must be meaningful. Training shoul be oriented towards a greater scope. If only a part of each annual conscript group gets basic training, the merit value and financial terms for military service

should be reviewed.

The Swedish defence model attributes a great importance to the reserve forces: Wit the gradual reduction of conscripts, how will the mobilization apparatus change?

The increased demand of flexibility

will transform the reserve Officers into an even more important resource. In the future they should have a greater opportunity, as compared with conscripts, to participate in training activities.

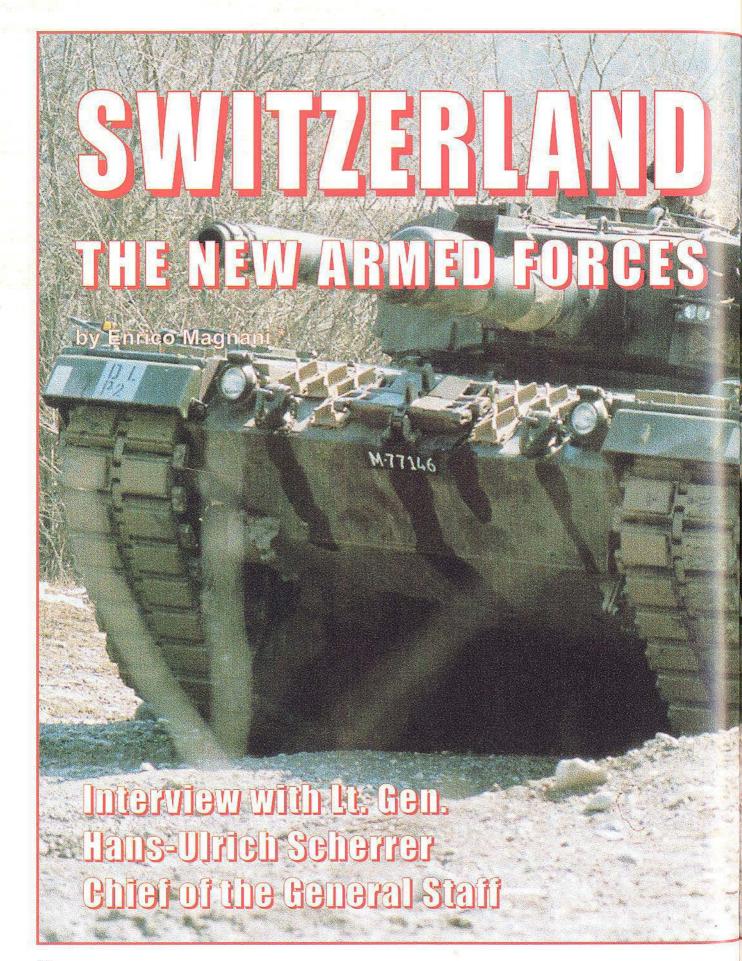
* Journalist

General Owe Erik Axel Wiktorin was born on May 7, 1940.

He attended the Air Force Training School (1961-1962), the Air Force Academy (1963-1964), the War College (1971-1973) and the USAF Air Command and Staff College (1979-1980).

From 1964 to 1969 he served as a fighter pilot. Later, he commanded an Air Force Group and, from 1971, held several positions at the Defence General Staff, where he has appointed Chief of Staff in 1991. In 1992 Gen. Wiktorin was appointed Commander of the Southern Command and, in 1994, Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces. He has been awarded several medals and Orders of Merit, and is a member of the Royal Academy of Military Sciences.

Gen. Owe Erik Axel Wiktorin is married and has two children.





"security through cooperation", led the Swiss Confederation to join the "Partnership for Peace", and to participate, with due respect for the Country's traditional neutrality, in the missions in Kosovo and Macedonia. This required a thorough reorganization of

the military instrument, in order to adapt it to the new requirements without disrupting the constitutional principles.

In the following interview, Lt. Gen. Scherrer, Chief of the General Staff, discusses with us these and many other subjects.

> General, could you make some anticipations on the Swiss Armed Forces of the 21st Century, to the readers of "Rivista Militare"?

In the last decade, the international situation has changed greatly. The present commitments of the Swiss Armed Forces will be confirmed, but will have to be evaluated and formulated anew, in order to better meet the new challenges of the 21st Century. The following principles will be applied:

- strenghtening of peace support activities;
 - vreorganization of defence;
- greater contribution to the safeguard of the general living standard.

For these reasons, the Armed Forces of the 21st Century will have to be characterized by:

· multifunctionality and **modularity:** the Armed Forces are capable of conducting different types of missions in an appropriate manner, and according to contingent requirements, with a brief specific preparation;



An Army Rescue unit during an exercise.

- readiness and augmentation capability: as regards the defence tasks, we can count on longer warning times, while for the employment in peace support and risk situations, a higher readiness is necessary and, therefore, the units must be rapidly available;
- interoperability: the capability
 of cooperating with the security
 organizations in Switzerland as
 well as with the Armed Forces
 and organizations of other
 Countries. Basic elements are:
 good command of English, staff
 work, command and control,
 training and good equipment.

What were the repercussions of the end of the Cold War on the Swiss Armed Forces? What are the main threats, besides the classic ones, to the security of the Confederation? I refer to terrorism, organized crime, drug

trafficking, illegal immigration.

The conventional military threat has remarkably diminished, leaving space to other much less foreseeable menaces, such as those you just mentioned. Ethnic conflicts are more and more causes of instability; as a rule, they affect individual Countries but, due to their repercussions (migrations, crime, terrorism, etc.), imperil the stability of entire regions. The very

security of Switzerland is not a certainty anymore, but can by guaranteed only through a strong international collaboration and a realistic security policy.

Switzerland partecipates in PfP. What are the reasons that

A Swiss observer from UNPROFOR meets a group of Bosnian refugees.





led a historically neutral country such as Switzerland to join this initiative?

The policy of neutrality is the result or the consequence of an accurate analysis of the situation. The definition of this policy takes place during a dynamic process, which must obviously take into due account the very foundations of the law. Precisely for this reasons, the Swiss military neutrality does not permit the Confederation to join organizations such as NATO and WEU. The Swiss strategy on security policy is expounded in Report 90, "The security policy of Switzerland in a changing world", which, at the very beginning mentions "the promotion of peace through cooperation and aidoperations". This guideline has been coherently pursued and, on October 30, 1996, our Parliament approved the "Partnership for Peace" programme, promoted by NATO.

The Partnership was established

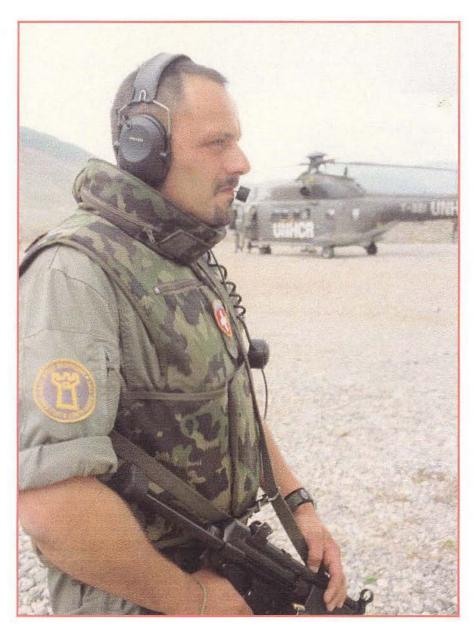
in order to increase the ability of the member Nations to participate in humanitarian and peace-support operations, as well as in rescue operations in case of natural disasters. All this, without depriving the individual Nations of their right to autonomous decisions. Therefore, neutrality is not under discussion, and the long Swiss tradition continues throughout the years.

Up to a few years ago, it was very unusual to see Swiss soldiers outside the borders of the Confederation. First, they were seen at work in Korea, then in Namibia, Western Sahara, Mideast, more recently in Bosnia and Kosovo. The engagement of the Swiss military for peace and international stability is more and more visible, within the activities of organizations such as the UN, OSCE and NATO. What are the motivations for these

Firing exercise of armoured units on snowy terrain. The Swiss Army has recently "put aside" a number of tanks and M109 self-propelled guns.

engagements, and what lessons have been learned from these missions?

The "Swisscompany" with its approximately 160 men has been in Kosovo employed Macedonia since October 1999. The reasons for this decision can be found in the new strategy on security policy, centred on "Security through cooperation". cooperation with other countries envisages a greater collaboration, with friendly countries and international organizations, on security and peace-support. This engagement corresponds to our peculiar interests, because it reduces the risk of Switzerland having to endure the consequences of instability and war.



A servicemen from a special unit for the protection of fortress units, on duty at Kukes' airfield (Albania).

manifold, and we make use of them in planning and training.

Switzerland has realized the best model of Militia. But the most diffused political orientations seem to prefer armed forces made up by volunteers and professionals rather than by conscripts.

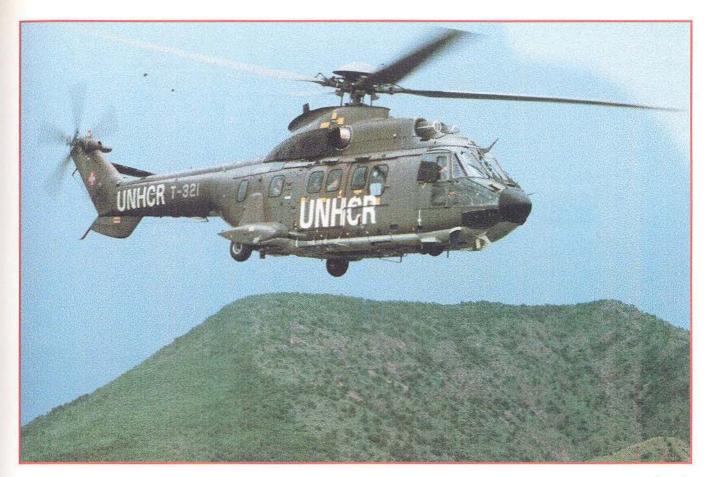
How do the Swiss Armed Forces consider this trend, which could deeply change their institutional character?

The Militia is a form of general military obligation, by which the soldiers are called for relatively long periods of time to perform particular duties. This model meets increasing difficulties, owing to the changes in the socio-political and economic context of the young cadres as well as in the technical requirements of the Armed Forces. New mixed models are under study, with a minimum percentage of regulars and a certain number of soldiers on temporary contract. The first results have been very encouraging, and the "on contract" component will be increased. But the special quality of the Militia

As regards the lessons, let me mention just a couple of them. We have become aware that it is very important for our Officers to know the command and control procedures adopted at NATO-command level, in order to be able to operate effectively within a CJTF (Combined Joint Task Force). Furthermore, we must adapt our logistic component, which was not structured for possible employment outside the national borders. The lessons that can be learned are



Fortress troops engaged in the external protection of a foreign embassy in Bern, the federal capital.



A "Superpuma" helicopter of the Swiss Army, assigned to the UN High Commissary for Refugees, during an aid operation in Kosovo.

must not be changed.

Therefore, we will never have fully professional or volunteer Armed Forces. This defence model does not correspond to our traditional mentality and does not make the most of the unquestioned advantages of the principle of militia.

Given the growing sophistication of the weapon systems and the continuous increase in their acquisition and management costs, do you believe it is still possible to call large numbers of reservists for training cycles?

Today a soldier attends a 15-week basic training course at a Recruit's School, and ten to sixteen 2- or 3week refresher courses in the following years. We note that, in particular during the biennial refresher courses, it is not possible to keep a high-quality level for a long time.

Therefore we must verify whether, on the basis of a new training model, it would not be better to prolong the recruit's courses, reducing the number of refreshers. The latter should be held every year. Furthermore, depending on the resources available, cadres and soldiers should have the possibility of fulfilling their military obligations in a single period.

After the completion of their military duties, all personnel, both the regulars and those who attended refresher courses, are assigned to the reserve for a certain number of years, in order to meet possible requirements of national defence.

It will not be easy to constitute a real "reserve", at least not in the medium term.

What is the role of the Militia

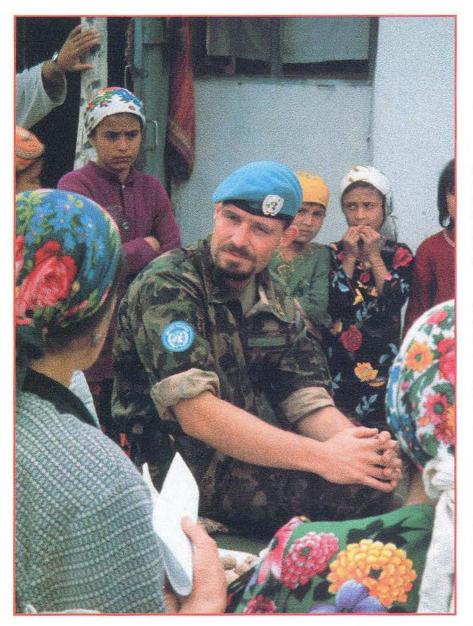
in a Country like Switzerland, where the civilian and military worlds are so closely connected?

The Militia, as an institution, is deeply rooted in our society. But it does not concern only the Armed Forces (citizen-soldier concept), but it permeates all our sociopolitical system.

Also the members of our Parliament are "militiamen".

The concept of "militia" in our country is often - and wrongly - equated to military service. It is necessary to go beyond that. People with marked command-aptitude put themselves at the disposal of others, in order to perform managerial functions that envisage more tasks than the minimum required by law.

The air force, which is significantly strengthening its interceptor and helicopter units, has always been a component of the Army. This peculiarity, which before could be



is still too early to discuss it.

considered obsolete, now appears to be a good innovation, seeing that integration among the Services is a must in the conduct of military operations. Could you illustrate the terms of this almost exclusively Swiss situation?

The Swiss Armed Forces, unlike those of the NATO Countries, have never been divided into Air Force, Army and Navy. Up to now, we've had an Army, with an important infantry component, in which the air forces are integrated. At present, in the wake of the "Reform of the Armed Forces of the 21st Century", we are seriously considering a new structure. But it

The Swiss defence model, also because of the Country's neutrality and the nature of its terrain, gives a great importance to fortifications. In a moment when mobility seems to prevail over static defence, what do you think about the future of fortifications and fixed installations?

It is true that the importance of fortifications is diminishing, but we want to remain faithful to the things that have given good results and are feasible from the financial point of view. We are eliminating the obsolete installations, and have

Switzerland is not a member of the UN, but frequenty assignes its military personnel to peace missions.

recently destroyed 13,500 of them.

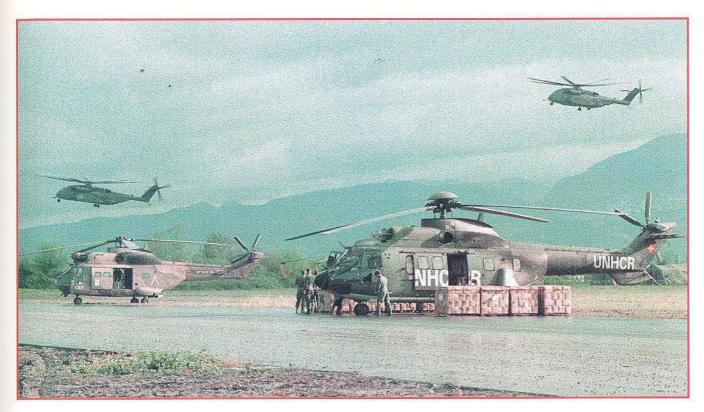
The Swiss Army has a certain number of mountain units. What could be their role in the present operational scenarios? How and in what direction can and should these special units evolve? Finally, can you tell us something about their flexibility?

Our territory is 60% mountains, and all the North-South transversals cross the Alpine region. Therefore the Army must have the appropriate troops. In the future, the protection of these communication routes will be very important for the whole of Europe.

As far as the specific mountain training is concerned, we qualify a small number of specialists at our "Central School for Mountain Combat" in Andermatt. This School organizes many courses for Partnership for Peace personnel, with the participation of many Officers from various Countries.

The Swiss defence model relies on the close integration of its civil and military components. What could be the Swiss Army's contribution in case of natural or industrial disasters or emergencies on the territory of the Confederation?

The Swiss Armed Forces are one of the instruments capable of achieving the goals of the security policy. Switzerland, in fact, considers its security policy as the result of the optimal concurrence of foreign policy, protection of the population, economic policy, police and State security, information, communications and, naturally, the Armed Forces. Very recently, the military intervened massively in the surveillance of the embassies in



Swiss helicopters at Tirana airport during operation "Alba".

Geneva and Bern, the assistance of numerous refugees from the Balkans and, finally, in support of the civilian population after the avalanches of the winter 1998-1999.

Within the sphere of population protection, all civilian assets are coordinated, in order to manage natural disasters, emergencies and consequences and armed conflicts (Fire Brigades, Medical and Rescue Service, Technical Services). The responsibility concerning protection of the population are mainly assigned to the Cantons. The Armed Forces, with their specifically trained troops (rescue units, territorial infantry etc.), only intervene in case of very serious events, when the civil authorities cannot manage by themselves. There are regular joint exercises of cantonal and military "disaster staffs", aimed at ensuring the highest and most efficient cooperation.

The financial instrument is becoming more and more

important for a regular and sufficient flow of resources in order to achieve the constant modernization and adaptation of the Armed Forces. Do you think that, as regards the Swiss situation, the so-called "peace dividends" have been collected?

I think so. By 2001 we are going to

have 65% of the financial means we had in 1990, which is certainly in line with the international levels. Nowadays, all over the world, the Armed Forces must make maximum use of the resources available and get better results with lesser funds.

*Journalist

Lieutenant General Hans-Ulrich Scherrer was born in Mosnang (Saint Gall) in 1942.

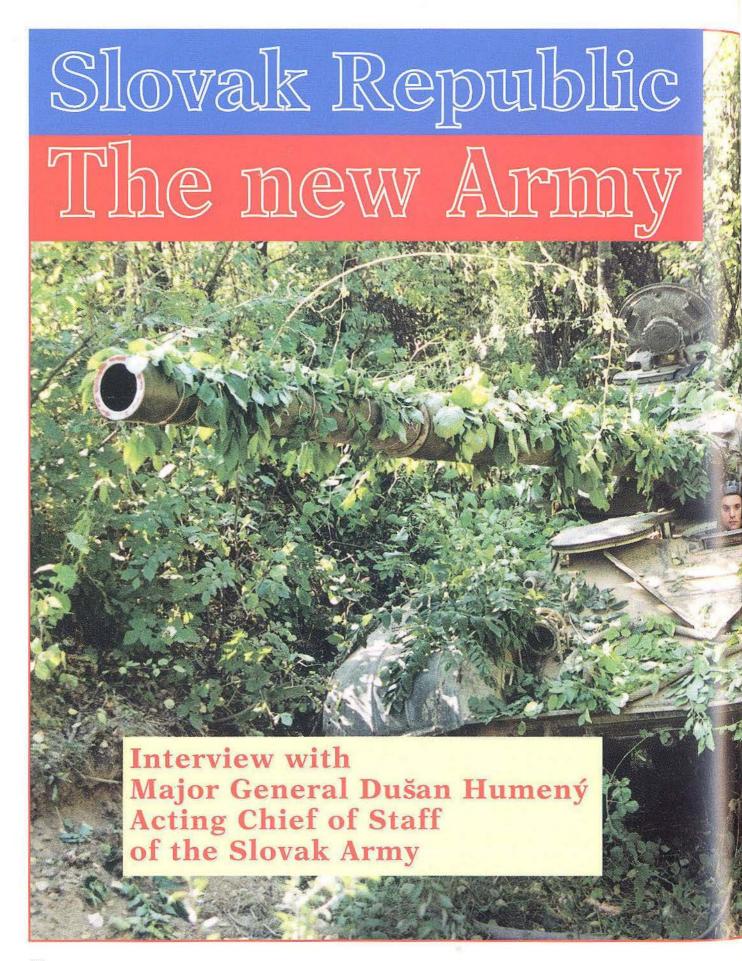
Gen. Scherrer was commissioned in 1964 and in 1969, with the rank of 1st Lieutenant, commanded a mortar company. In 1973 became a Staff Officer in a Division and in 1980 - as a Major - assumed the command of a Mountain Rifle Battalion.

In 1984 was transferred to the Staff of a Corps; in 1985 he was promoted Lieutenant Colonel and, in 1987, to the rank of Colonel. He then commanded a Mountain Infantry Regiment until 1990 when, promoted Major General, was appointed Commander of a Field Division. In 1998, promoted to the rank of Lieutenant General, he became Chief of the General Staff.

In 1974 he attended the Course for Commanders at Hammelburg, FRG, and, from 1978 to 1979, the "Infantry Officer Advanced Course" at the U.S. Army Infantry School, Fort Benning (USA).

In 1997 Gen. Scherrer attended the Columbia Business School in the United States. His mother tongue is German, and he also speaks fluent English and French.

Lieut. Gen. Hans-Ulrich Scherrer is married and has two children.



The Slovak Army is engaged in a radical program of reorganization which will be completed in 2002. The goal is to realize a highly flexible instrument, capable of giving an effective contribution to peace operations and to assure the defence of the national territory. This and other subjects were discussed in the interview with Maj.Gen. Dušan Humený, who will assume the office of Army Chief of Staff by the end of the current year.



General, the history of the Slovak Army is not long, but it is certainly interesting. Can you summarize its first ten years, for the readers of "Rivista Militare"?

You are right. The Army of the Slovak Republic is really young, and so are the structures we are building now.

On January 1, 2000 we have noted, in fact, a qualitative and quantitative improvement in the changes under way in our Army. In its Programmatic Statement", the Government of the Slovak Republic has manifested its intention to reform the Armed Forces, in order to implement optimal variations which could ensure the defence of the Nation, as fullfledged NATO member. Today we are adjusting the Army's strength, structure, weapons and procedures so as to attain this aim. Once the reform is completed, we are going to have 2 mechanized Brigades; 1 artillery Brigade; 1 all-volunteer mechanized immediate-reaction Battalion: te Home Guard Heaquarters with 4 Mobilization Bases; 2 engineer Battalions; training centres of the Army Banches; operational logistic and support units.

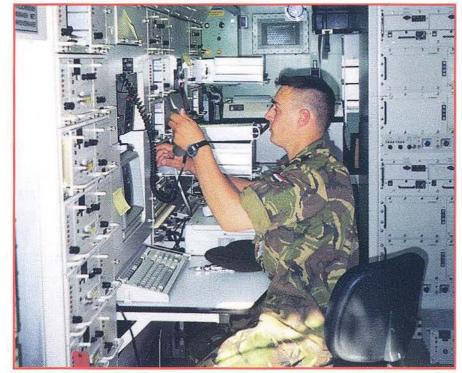
An efficient and, at the same time, reachable goal: within the year 2002, it envisages 12,210 military and 1800 civilian

personnel. There has never been a reform of such extent in the history of our Armed Forces. We are acting gradually, being aware of its importance and of the efforts it requires. We have successfully completed the first phase on April 1, 2000 when the Land Forces Command has become operational; as from that date we have created the Home Guard Headquarters and the Headquarters of the 1st Mech Brigade. The 4th Mobilization Base has started its activity, while the envisaged Major Units and formations have been placed under the Land Forces Command and the Home Guard.

We are now in the second phase



outside the national territory.



of the reform, which calls for the disbandment and reorganization of Major Units and formations. The reorganization of the Land Forces will continue in 2001, in accordance with the recommendations contained in Gen. Garrett's study and the conclusions of a special project. At the moment, I can say I am satisfied with the observance of the schedule. All Slovak Officers hope and wish that by 2001 there will be all the conditions, including,

of course, the financial ones, necessary for the smooth completion of the reorganization.

According to the Slovak Republic's military strategy, the Army must be the main component of the Armed Forces for defence, safeguard of the territorial integrity and national sovereignty. Furthermore it must give a significant contribution to fulfill the requiremens of humanitarian and peacekeeping operations

How was the process of separation of the Czechoslovak Army conceived and managed? What were the most difficult problems that the Slovak Army had to tackle?

The whole process of separation of the federal Army of former Czechoslovakia was a verv interesting and unique operation. As is known, the event was received with attention and appreciation by the whole world. The Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic carried out the simultaneous separation of the State and the Armed Forces which, up to that moment, had been a single structure. The present Slovak Army was officially born in January this year and, as I said, is therefore very young. Actually, there had already been a kind of "de facto" division also before. But I am happy to say that both sides have kept their values of respect, courtesy and mutual esteem, and continued in the cooperation with other Armies, especially with those of our neighbouring Countries.

Since the beginning of its existence, the Slovak Army has



participated in UN peacekeeping missions and, more recently, in NATO operations. Slovak observers and units have operated and are still on duty in former Yugoslavia, Albania, Africa and the Middle East. What were the lessons learned from these missions?

Training, employment and activities of the Slovak Armed Forces in Peace Support Operations, be they UN or NATO, fall within the responsibility of the Defence General Staff. The Army participates in the missions with its personnel. At the present time, 93 servicemen are employed with UNDOF and 43 with KFOR. The personnel for these missions are selected taking into account their moral and physical qualities and the results of psycho-diagnostic examinations. The latter are conducted both on their departure and when they come home.

Based on experience and lessons

learned, the training programme is oriented, in particular, towards psychological preparation. The experience gained is not only applied to the preparation of the successive missions, but is also employed immediately, in the routine work, in order to improve the efficiency of training, equipment, technical support and command-and-control.

Today many Armies are oriented towards a model made up mainly of professionals and long-term volunteers. What is the prevailing trend in Slovakia on this subject? Will conscription remain in force?

At present, the Army performs 78% of the Armed Forces' tasks. Generals, Officers and Warrant Officers carry out 86% of this work, while NCOs and enlisted men perform the remaining 14%. By the end of 2006 there will be

more Warrant Officers, NCOs and professional soldiers.

Our primary objective is now that of completing the immediate-reaction Battalion on a professional basis, since conscripts are available only for 9 months and cannot achieve the required training level. The professional character of the Army is a determinant requisite for our participation in NATO. Of course, this depends on the political will.

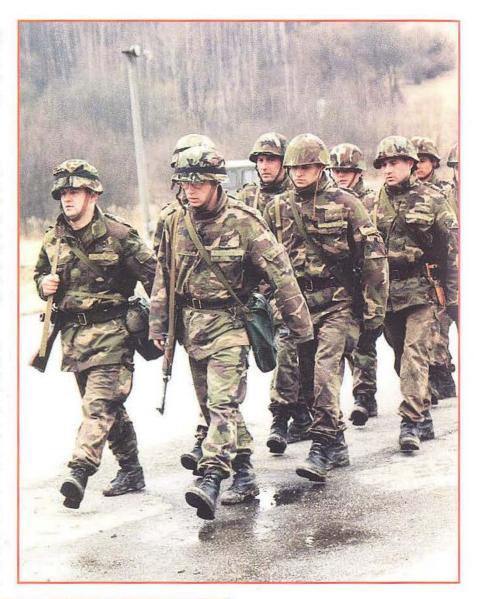
What is the Slovak Army's perception of the Partnership for Peace?

The PfP is one of our main activities within the cooperation with NATO and with other Countries. Our personnel have participated in training courses and international exercises. Among the most significant ones, I would like to mention "Cooperative Dragon" in Albania, "Cooperative Lantern" in

France, "Best Effort" and "Rescue Eagle" in Rumania. By the end of this year, our forces will take part in two more exercises, which will take place in the United Kingdom and in the Czech Republic: "United Step" and "Blue Line".

The participation in NATO and the EU are two fundamental objectives of the security policy of Slovakia. Looking at the Atlantic Alliance, what are the priorities set by the Slovak Army in order to make its structure compatible with that of the other land forces of the Alliance? What are the times involved?

The Slovak Republic has always looked with interest at the European and transatlantic security-structures, and today considers the admission to NATO a national strategic objective, especially since some of our neighbours have been admitted. The Government and the Army consider the admission to NATO a guarantee of security and sovereignty, also in view of a reduction of forces. For us, it represents also a verification of the operational procedures and the acquisition of more experience in





command and control, logistics, training and management/welfare of personnel.

A better knowledge of the operational procedures at all levels is an essential priority. In particular, we are interested in interoperability in the communications sector and in the acquisition of ammunition for weapon systems.

We have learned a lot from our participation in international exercises, and this experience produced good spin-offs for staff and training activities. As regards weapon systems, we are particularly interested in improving their combat capabilties at night and in adverse weather conditions, and in the possibility of employing a standard type of ammunition for



the most important weapons.

In Central and Eastern Europe several military-cooperation activities have been taken, with the objective of establishing multinational forces for peacekeeping operations. Does the Slovak Army participate in any of these undertakings?

Our presence is very active in the cooperation projects, within the framework of the multinational unit called TISA, whose purpose is to monitor and control the basin of the river after which it is named. The Main task of this unit will be that of intervening in case of disasters in the river basin, upon request by any of the participating Countries. A Draft of Agreement has been signed by the governments of Hungary, Rumania, Slovakia and Ukraine. Each Country provides a company-level unit. Slovakia will not create special units for this purpose. The units of the existing structure will be employed, starting with the Engineer Battalion of the 1st Mechanized Brigade, which will be located at Michalovce.

The implementation of the system of constant mutual control of the Tisa basin is one of the activities of regional cooperation that have produced important contacts among the four participating Countries.

The modernization of armaments is managed by an "ad hoc" Section of the Ministry of Defence, on the basis of the requirements. The Army takes part in this process by defining, in the initial phase, the techno-tactical parameters, and by conducting occasional control and

employ the same system?

Army is currently modernizing the T72 tanks. Does this programme have any element in common with those started in Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic, which

field tests.

As concerns the cooperation of several political subjects in the modernization process, I do not have the elements that would be necessary to give you an answer, since this matter does not fall within the responsibility of a single Service.

The armoured component of the

* Journalist

Major General Dušan Humený was born in Liptovsky Mikulás on December 4, 1953.

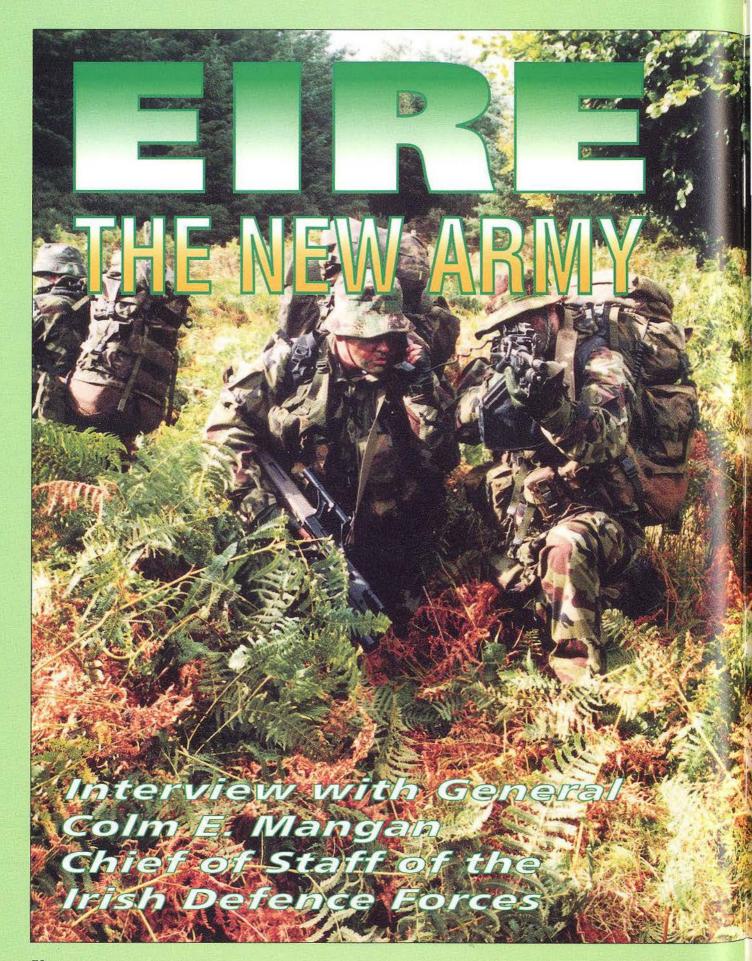
He attended the Military School from 1969 to 1973 and, after his comission, commanded several units until 1976, when he became Officer in charge of training at the 49th Mechanized regiment.

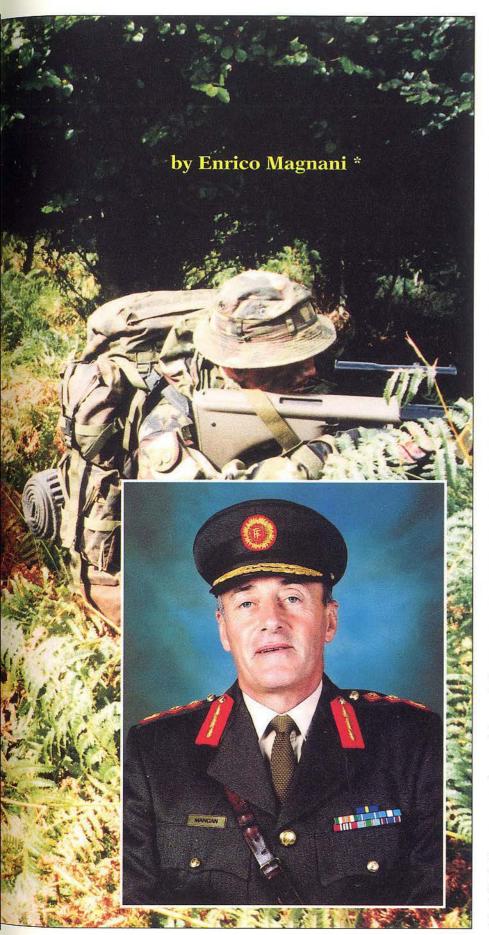
From 1980 to 1990 he held many command and staff positions at the 31st Battalion of the 331st Artillery Brigade, a unit of the 4th Army (Western Military District).

Gen. Humeny has been commander of the 61st Missile Battalion and the 331st Brigade.

From 1996 to 1999 he has been in charge of the Missile Units and the Artillery Administrative Division at the Army Staff. He attended the specialization course on Heavy Artillery, the Brno Military Academy and the Foreign Languages School in Germany, where he also attended the General Staff Academy. He speaks fluent English, German and Russian.

On January 1, 2000 he was appointed Acting Chief of Staff of the Army and, on September 1 of the same year, was promoted to the rank of Major General. Maj. Gen. Dušan Humený is married and has two children.





Ireland, a militarily neutral nation since its independence, has expressed its intention to take part in **PARTNERSHIP** FOR PEACE, with the aim of contributing to the stability and security of the Euro-Atlantic area. To this end, its Armed Forces had to be thoroughly streamlined and reorganized. This and other subjects are dealt with in the interview with Lieutenant General Colm E. Mangan, Chief of Staff of the Irish Defense Forces.

General, can you describe the Irish Army?

Our defense forces (DF), made up of volunteers only, comprise:

- Permanent Defense forces (PDF)
- Reserve Defense forces (RDF)

The first, 10,500 strong, include the army, navy and Air Force; the second, with 14,000 reservists, are used to augment the PDF, when and where requited.



"Casa" twin turboprop aircraft, Irish Air Corps.

The Army is divided into three brigade groups. The navy, being the main naval agency of the nation, carries out naval defense tasks. The Air Force must safeguard the security of our national air space and support both ground and sea operations. as regards the PDF and the RDF, training and logistic requirements are met by the Defense Forces Training centre (DFTC) and by two logistic bases. A number of specialized units are under the direct responsibility of the Deputy Chief of Staff (operations). Among them there are one Air Defense Regiment, one unit of Special Defense forces and the Army Rangers.

The DF have been assigned the following tasks by the government:

- defend the nation from possible armed assaults;
- · co-operate with civil organizations

(in essence, assist, on demand, police forces who are mainly responsible for keeping law and order, as part of their effort to guarantee the internal security of the nation);

- take part in multinational peace support, crisis management and humanitarian relief activities, acting within the UN or under a UN mandate, as well as in regional security missions authorized by the UN;
- ensure the protection of fisheries, according to the obligations taken on by ireland, as a member of the EU;
- carry out other tasks (search and rescue activities, aeromedical evacuation service, ministerial air transport service, natural disaster relief operations, assistance in guaranteeing essential services, co-operation in fighting sea water pollution).

To perform these tasks, a thorough military training is required to this end large resources are allotted to endow personnel with the necessary capabilities, knowledge and experience.

the general public constantly witnesses to the DF contribution to police operations.

subversive actitivities have called for a massive intervention of DF, for two reasons mainly. Firstly, police forces are unarmed on most occasions and require to be adequtely protected to carry out certain types of actions. Secondly DF, relying on large military capabilities and specialized equipment, can be effectively employed for security tasks.

The DF co-operate in the following sectors:

- · security of critical installations;
- · area reconnaissance
- · valuables escorts
- · ordnance convoy escorts
- · prisoners escorts
- monitoring industrial explosives
- specialized investigations
- · air support
- · combating drugs trafficking
- ordnance disposal.

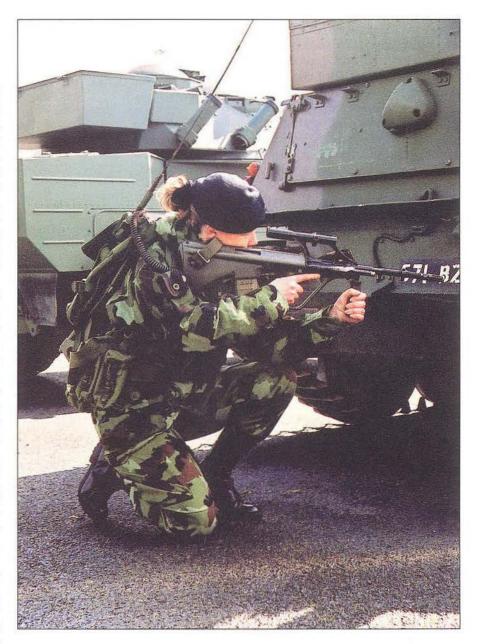
Since the beginning of the new milennium, DF personnel have

A female soldier armed with a "Stayer" machine gun.

totally performed about 50,000 individual tours of duty, serving humanitarian peacekeeping operations all over the world. presently - october 2, 2000 - as much as 911 troops have been employed in 15 different operations, including UN, EU and OSCE missions. Enlisted men have served in Lebanon, East Timor, Sarajevo and Kosovo, while officers have been deployed as observers in other missions. Besides carrying out thier institutional tasks, the Navy and the Army are mainly responsible for the protection of fisheries and carry out maritime survaillance operations on territorial waters. The width of Ireland's exclusive fishing area is of 132,000 square nautical miles approx., i.e. five times that of the mainland and 16% of all european waters. Moreover, Ireland owns 118,000 square miles of continental shelf, exceeding the per capita average of EU nations by 14 times. The Air Force has also been tasked to carry out search, rescue and aeromedical evacuation operations.

The tasks assigned to the Df are numerous and diverse. In fact, military personnel deliver humanitarian assistance during major emergencies (accidents and natural disasters), ensure the operation of fundamental services, on demand (e.g. during strikes in the industrial sector), carry out search and rescue and aeromedical evacuation operations, meet governmental air transport requirements and assist in combating sea water pollution due to oil spills. They also take part in official ceremonies, such as the "Ireland equestrian event" and are actively engaged in equestrian sports.

Ireland has acceded to the NATO-sponsored Partnership



for Peace, after a long internal debate. What do you think the repercussions of this choice and the army's engagments in this program will be?

The participation in PfP is really beneficial to the DF in planning and preparing peace support operations. In fact, taking part in PfP allows forces to adequately train and learn the techniques and operational and doctrinal procedures, necessary to carry out present and often multi-dimentional peace support operations. DF capabilities and operational readiness are thus

emphasized. All activities will be centerd upon training with other PfP members, so as to integrate one of our combat groups into an international brigade framework. We also want EU partners to share our experience, acquired over the years by staging crisis mangement operations.

Ireland has been a neutral nation since its independence. Following the decision to accede to the PfP, can the term "neutral" take on a new meaning, in a world which

seems to have ruled out all bloc-to-bloc confrontations?

Ireland's participation in PfP neither gives rise to constitutional or national sovreignty problems, nor is contrary to our neutral stance, in fact, the PfP does not oblige ireland to take part in defense missions, in compliance with NATO or EU treaties, nor requires it to fulfill legally binding tasks at international level. The participation of DF personnel in PfP-connected activities - training or exercises - has no legal restrictions.

Our government, knowing that the PfP is a voluntary, flexible and self-differentiating process. has clearly defined national priorities in its presentation document, which are absolutely in line with our military

neutrality policy.

ireland, taking part in the PfP, suscribes to the basic concept that the stability and security of the Euro-Atlantic area may be obtained through co-operation and joint action only. Our accession to the PfP reaffirms Ireland's commitment to abide by the obligations set by the UN Charter and the principles of the Universal Declaration of human rights, irish foreign policy has always been focused supporting international security and carrying out peacekeeping and humanitarian operations.

The army, together with the DF, has recently contacted a large international consulting firm for drawing up a renovation and reorganization scheme. What are the reasons for this very original choice, if compared to the policy followed by other nations, where similar projects have been directly drawn up by the General Staffs?

The DF have not hired external contractors. In 1998 the



Government set up an Efficiency Advisory Group (EAG) to assess the activities and procedures carried out at ministerial level. During that review process, the Group focused on the Ministry of Defense and the DF's administrative sectors. Concurrently, owing to the changes occurred in the defense policy during the '90s, the government decided to ridefine the tasks assigned to the DF, as a precondition for a more radical reorganization of all military systems and structures, to be carried out under the EAG supervision. The Group decided to commission an in-depth study on the DF to a consulting firm, perhaps in the hope of having an evaluation from an external viewpoint. The team of consultants included a number of candian officers recently dismissed from active service. The EAG also hired a retired senior officer from New-Zealand. These experts drew up a report for the Group, as did the DF chief of Staff.

Based on those reports and the

documents developed by other parties (Officers and associations of Officers and other ranks' Representatives), the EAG submitted a report to the government, which endorsed its conclusions and gave directions to draw up and implement a plan addressing the problems pointed out. The Chief of Staff and the Chief of the Quartermaster corps were among the members of that implementation group.

What are the repercussions from stemming the implementation of the DF reorganization plan?

There has been a 36% reduction in the number of personnel authorized to serve within the DF ("the establishment"). Later on, a defense policy document, issued in february 2000, provided for a further 8% cut.

There has been a shif from a force organized on 4 Commands, with one Brigade each, to a new



their numbers and lower their average age.

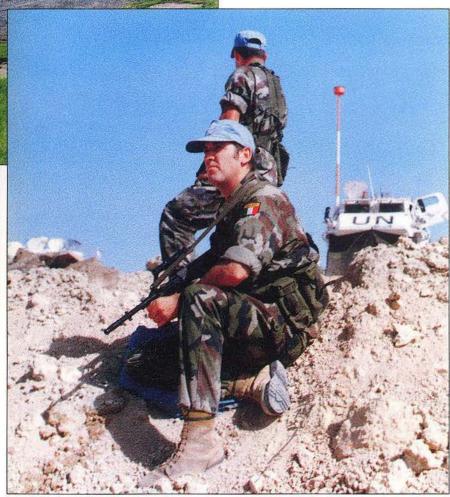
The Army has acquired a wide experience in UN-mandated peacekeeping operations, together with that gathered in

Left.

Troops undergoing training in the "Curragh" area.

Below.

Soldiers serving in the mission in Lebanon.



structure based on 3 brigades. One command level has been scrapped disbanded and training and logistic functions centralized.

C2 functions have been reorganizzed at top level and a new strategy has been adopted as regards personnel, to streamline NATO missions in bosnia-Herzegovina and kosovo. What lessons have been learned from participating in so many multinational engagements?

Ireland has been participating in UN peacekeeping operations since 1958. From that time on, as already said, more than 50,000 hours have been spent in performing individual tours of duty in 40 countries all over the world. We have taken part in almost 40 different UN missions.

To date, the most important operation is UNIFIL in Lebanon, where we have committed a Battalion and a large number of personnel to the force headquarters. We have learned a lot from these overseas engagements and are now convinced that we can really operate in an international environment. We have also profitably worked shoulder to shoulder with our italian collegues in UN missions. In fact, the italian air wing serving with UNIFIL has greatly supported our Battalion in Lebanon.

As regards SFOR, the DF have committed a miliary police Battalion in Sarajevo. They are also represented in the International Police HQs, together with the Italian Carabinieri and the Spanish Civil Guards. The Irish contingent, together with Spanish and italian forces, also carries out routine military police functions in Sarajevo. these tasks include investigations, military movement control and patrolling activities.

We have learned many lessons from SFOR, as we had the opportunity of testing our capabilities in the field by performing police tasks in an international environment. Thus, our conduct has proved to be perfectly in line with the best international procedures. Presently we take part in KFOR with a heavy transport Company, equipped with IVECO DROPS. similar to the Italian vehicles, the third transport Company has its HQs in Lipljan, 12 km from Pristina, and has perfectly integrated into the overall KFOR organization.

As in the case of the troops committed to SFOR, the experience drawn from this mission has confimerd the importance and effectiveness of the present training in the logistic and operational sectors.



A warship during an exercise.

The European council has recently decided in Helsinki and Lisbon to set up a European military force with an independent Command and control structure, connected to the Atlantic Alliance to some extent. Are these decisions compatible with Dublin's choice to keep a neutral stance?

In Helsinki the main objectives were defined, while in Lisbon the best political course to attain them and their inherent responsibilites were identified.

The Irish government fully endorses the fact that "Europe must have an autonomous operational capability, sustained by reliable military forces, ready to react to international crises", as long as this objective refers to humanitarian and rescue missions only, i.e. peacekeeping or peacekeeping-related tasks. this trend is fully in line with our traditional foreign policy guidelines, as regards military interventions. consequently, we feel that we can carry out the mandate set by the Helsinki and Lisbon agreeements, though keeping our neutral attitude.

Your army has enrolled a small number of women, how long have you been employing female personnel? Can you summarize their contribution to the military?

The Irish DF enroll 400 women against a force of 10,500 troops.

Presently they are about 4% of the whole force, but this percentage will certainly increase in the future. Since 1996 their numbers have trebled, in line with international military trends and with the developments of society at large. The DF foster women's enrollment into the Army, Navy and Air force. No political restrictions whatsoever have been imposed on their serving in the armed forces. In fact, the DF are proud of granting equal employment opportunities.

Within the Army's main programs, there is a plan to upgrade and enhance tank and light armored car fleets, Infantry transport and combat vehicles, field artilley assets and tactical helicopters, although under the authority of the Air Corps. At What stage are these programs at present?

The DF have recently been reorganized and restructured. Moreover, a white book on defense, illustrating a military development plan, was published in February, for the first time in the history of Ireland. In this document the Secretary of Defense has allotted investment package to the Army, Navy and Air Force, to update and re-equip their forces. In particular, the Army will acquire more modern assets, the Navv new shore patrol vessels and the Force medium Air helicopters. The Government has also approved the acquisition of 40 MOWAGs and a mediumrange a/a guided weapons system. The Navy is presently supervising the construction of a new ship at Appledore (england) and has issued a call for tender for the supply of medium lift helicopters and fixed-wing trainers.

Ireland, though neutral, has a long tradition of military cooperation with some nations, like the US, the UK and India. Can you illustrate the terms of your Army's multilateral cooperation?

Both the Government and the military are aware that a relationship with the international military community is necessary to maintain our standards and keep up with the latest developments in the field of military doctrine and procedures. We have a long record of military experience at international level, having served in several UN overseas missions and recently in those sponsored by the EU and led by NATO. The contact with different nations has proved beneficial to our troops and allowed us to transpose the Irish point of view into international military affairs.

A last question, Mister General. Your Army has a great tradition of military horsemanship. At what stage is this specialty at present?

The DF Horsemanship School is placed in the "Mc Kee" Barracks, Dublin. It is the most prestigious national centre in this sector. The School was established in 1926 and the Army horsemen have always ranked among the best winners in showjumping and three-day event competions. They have represented Ireland in European, World and Olympic

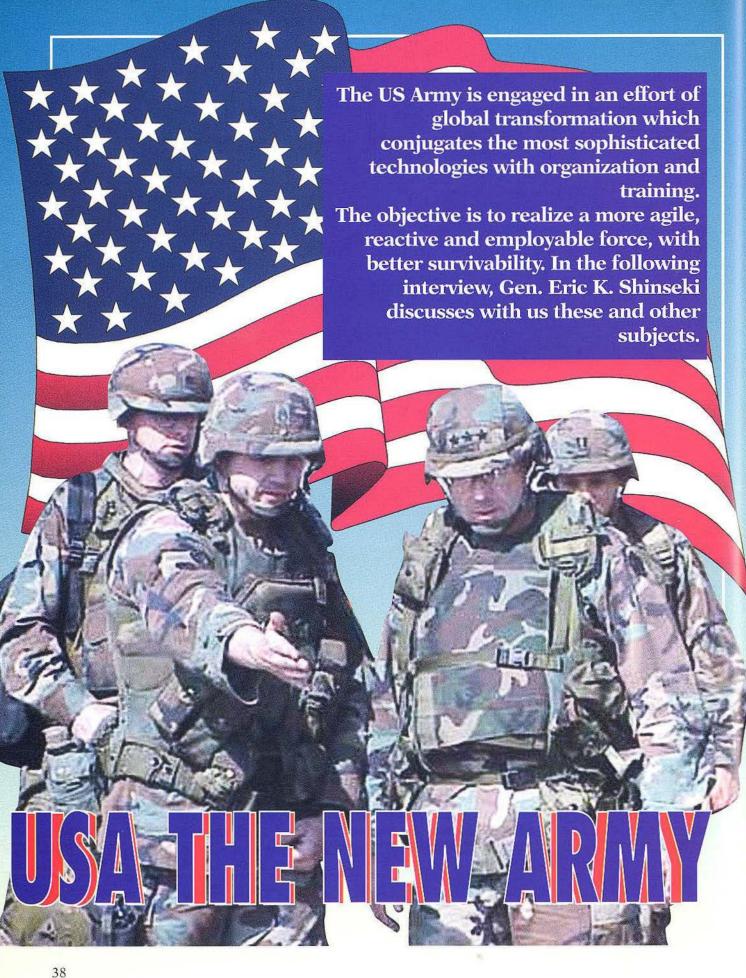
Championships, contributed to the victories obtained during the Aga Khan Trophy at the Royal Dublin Society and taken part in other important events in renowned places, such as Aachen, Calgary and Rome. These achievements have been constant over time and the School is presently highly competitive at world-wide level. In recognition of the awards won by the school, the Army has launched a new initiative to help young civilian horsemen obtain scholarships sponsored by the Ministry of Defense.

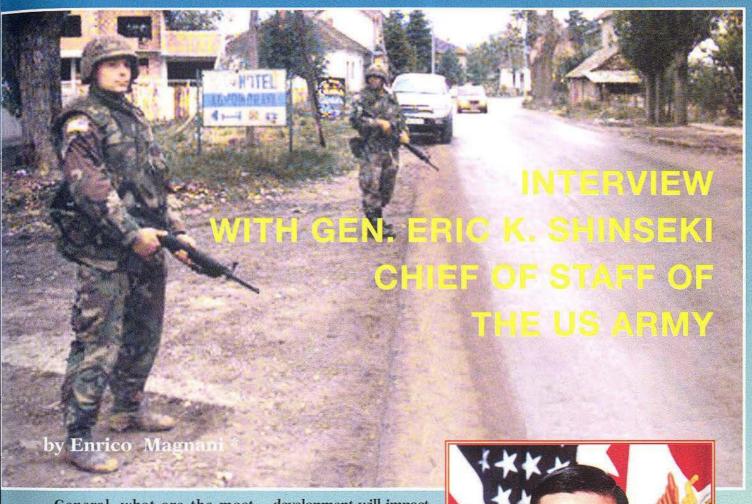
* Journalist

Lieutenant General Colm E. Mangam started serving in the Infantry Branch in 1961. He was first assigned to the "General Training Depot" of the "Curragh Command". From 1961 to 1979 he was almost always at the "Curragh Command", holding different positions in the 3rd and 30th Infantry Battalions, the Branch School and the General Command. In 1964 he became Platoon Leader at the 31st UNFICYP Infantry Group (Cyprus). In 1968 he served as assistant officer to the UNFICYP. From 1972 to 1974 he was a military observer with the UNTSO in the Middle East. After attending a Staff Course in Germany from 1977 to 1978, he was appointed Inspector at the "Command and Staff School of the Military College", and kept that position until 1985. In the same year he served in Lebanon with the 57th UNIFIL Infantry Battalion, as Operations Officer. In late 1985 he took up his duties at the Operations Section of the Defense Forces Command. He commanded the 3rd Infantry Battalion from 1989 to 1990 and the 68th UNIFIL Infantry Battalion from 1990 to 1991. In the 1990-1991 period he served with the European Community Monitoring Mission (ECMM) in Yugoslavia.

Once promoted to the rank of Brigadier General, in 1995 he was appointed Commandant of the Military College and in 1996 Commanding General of the "Eastern Command". In November 1998 he became Major General to cover the position of Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics. On September 25, 2000, he took up the position of Chief of the General Staff with the rank of Lieutenant General.

Lt. Gen. Mangan is married with three children.





General, what are the most important programmes in the US Army agenda for the early years of the 21st Century?

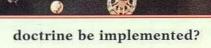
The United States Army not only must fight and win the Nation's wars, but also conduct military operations in support of our National Command Authority. To this end, it has begun to transform, in order to meet the challenges of the new century. This transformation will affect structure, equipment and training, all leading to a more responsive, deployable, agile, versatile, lethal, survivable and sustainable force.

Some time ago, the 4th Infantry was transformed into a *laboratory* for the land forces, and is experimenting the feasibility of the so-called *Force XXI*. Could you tell us in what way this

development will impact on the structure of the US Army in the future?

One of the Army's focus areas is achieving information dominance. This has been incorporated within the force development, design and fielding process. At the same time, the Army has taken measures to ensure our ability to fight as part of an integrated joint and multinational force.

The RMA (Revolution in Military Affairs) emphasizes speed in the decision-making process and in operations, as well as the accuracy and surgical precision of the actions. What will be its time frame, and how will this



As you said, RMA is already in place in many units. The four Advanced Warfighting Experiments conducted since 1995, and the advanced digitization capabilities now is use



by the 4th Infantry Division and the 3rd Corps, are clear examples of employment of new technologies. Meanwhile, the Army continues to pursue cutting-edge technologies, as evidenced by our efforts to build the Objective Force, whose units should be operational at the end of this decade.

US Army contingents are an important element of several multinational forces that are now working in the Balkans. What are the lessons learned from these particular experiences that involve both peacekeeping and peace-enforcement?

In our view our experience in the Balkans, working with our partner Nations and NATO allies, has been a success story. Furthermore, these operations have demonstrated the efficiency of the Alliance and reinforced the importance of interoperability in multinational operations. Peacetime engagement

with the allies will also remain critically important to developing interoperability, one of the cornerstones of success in contingency operations.

The US Army, although placing a great emphasis on the maintainance of superiority, at all levels, during military operations, is conducting studies about non-lethal weapons. What is the state-of-the-art of this technology? Is it really deployable, and in what kind of scenarios?

We are in the initial phase of study of non-lethal weapon technology and are still studying various proposals regarding their employment. We will not speculate on the feasibility of their use until the subject matter experts have completed their analysis and findings.

In what way will the future soldier, the so-called cyber

warrior, be different from the rifleman of today?

The soldier of the future,



equipped with the *Land Warrior* systems (an advanced digitized, modular weapon system), will have enhancements to the

Right.

An NCO of the 2nd Detachment, 7th Air Squadron.

Facing page, above.

Members of Company C, 1st bn, 26th Infantry Regt, on patrol along the border between Serbia and Kosovo.

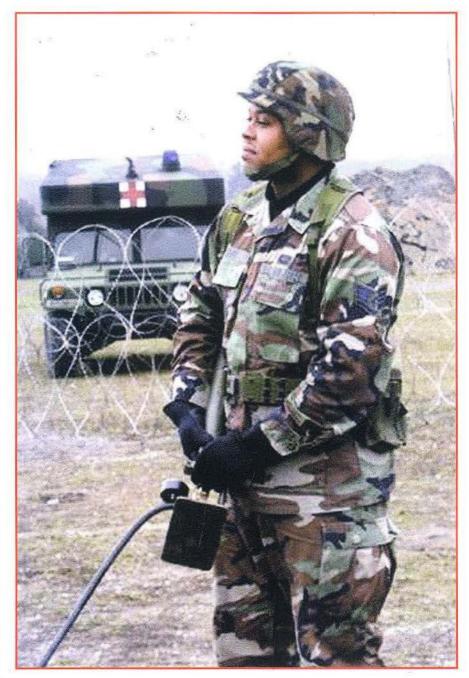
Facing page, below.

A vehicle of the Transport Platoon, Company A, Forward Support Bn.

individual soldier's ability to shoot, move, communicate, remain tactically aware and survive. Among other things, he will be equipped with technology that enables him to communicate quickly and accurately using digital technology. He will be able to engage targets while reducing personal exposure, and greatly increase his individual and collective contribution to the battle.

The hypothesis of a worldwide general conflict seems over now, and yet the US Army has the biggest and most modern tank fleet in the world. What will be the future of the armoured component?

formations Our heavy employ a main battle tank that some consider the finest in the world, and will continue to play a vital role in the US Army throughout the coming decades. Our heavy forces the so-called Legacy Force must fulfill our mission requirements. To maintain overmatch and win decisively against anv potential adversary, we must continue to train and maintain these types of formations until the convergence of technology and the interim Force formations are realized in the Objective Force.



Artillery has always been one of the most technologically developed components of the Army. What are the plans for the replacement of the MLRS and M109 fleet? What will be the fire support for the medium-light forces of the future?

The Army maintains that it must have field artillery to fight and win on the future battlefield. Each component of the forces has unique and critical missions in every conflict. The successor to the M109 Paladin, the Crusader, is a critical element of the Army's vision for future forces because of its rapid and accurate long-range fire, its ability to trap and kill, and its survivability. The Crusader is a sophisticated artillery system that will be effective in every mission and every theatre. Initially, fire support for our Interim Brigade Combat Teams will consist of eighteen

155mm towed howitzers. As part of the efforts to develop the Objective Force, the centerpiece of our fire support system beyond 2012 has not been identified yet.

Engineers and Signals now have full roles in any military operation, as well as that of force multipliers and pillars of Peace Support Operations. In the architecture of the US Army of the 21st Century, what will be the future for these specialties?

We envision that Engineers and Signals will remain critical members of the combined arms team. The technological advancements in these areas will continue to demand tough, disciplined soldiers with the requisite skills needed for the Objective Force.

The logistics component of the Army needs strong cooperation with other services. This



Logistics redesign is a major component of the Army transformation. We are currently partnering with industry to identify new technologies that will enable us to make the *Objective Force* a reality. Additionally, we are working with our sister services to identify logistical commonalities,



The leader of a rifle squad and his interpreter, members of Company B, 3rd bn., 505th Paratroop Regt., talking to some children near Gjilane.

Above.

A woman NCO in change of fuel supplies and a mechanic of the Transport Unit, Special Troops bn., 5th Corps.

Left.

Stationary flight of an AH-64 "Apache" helicopter at very low altitude.

demand on strategic airlift. The logistics elements are transforming with a reorganization of the Army Materiel Command and Theatre Support Command. We are also focusing on developing and fielding strategic/mission/combat configured loads; developing intermediate support/staging base doctrine and structure; reviewing strategic air and sealift and prepositioned stocks/sets: enhancing power projection infrastructure, both in the US and overseas; fielding logistics vehicles with on-board upload/download: and reviewing/validating contractor and Host Nation Support.



cooperation maintains the credibility of the operational forces. Do you foresee something new coming in interservice and/or civil-military cooperation? and to determine the most efficient way to move Army forces by air and sea. The Army is working to reduce its deployed footprint in the battlespace and reduce logistics



The US Army has the world's biggest paratroops and airmobile units. What will be the future of these forces as tilt rotor systems develop?

Tilt rotor technology presents some very interesting and potentially useful applications. However, our airborne and light infantry units remain the most deployable and practical war fighting formations in contingency scenarios. The Marine Corps is currently at the forefront of developing this capability and we will continue to share their insights as they develop the doctrine associated with this

new technology.

In a general picture of force reductions, the US forces in Italy and the "Lion Brigade", on the contrary, were reinforced in personnel and equipment. Will the "Lion Brigade" see other changes? What role does this unit play in European and Mediterranean security?

There are no near-term changes anticipated for US Army forces serving in Italy. Southern European Task Force soldiers will continue their contingency role as before: a short-notice, forcible, entrycapable reinforced Infantry battalion, ready to execute missions as directed.

The US Army is completely based on professional personnel, including a significant number (more than 10%) of women. Is it possible to evaluate the impact of the presence of women on the professional level of the personnel?

Women fill critical roles and perform a number of very important duties. They serve



proudly and make a significant contribution to the US Army, a most respected institution in our culture.

In a force that looks to the future, what is the weight of military tradition?

Military tradition and heritage are extremely important to our soldiers. Last summer "The Army" celebrated its 225th birthday and, although it is relatively young by European standards, we take great pride in the fact that it has been in existence since before the Nation



Lt. Gen. James C. Riley, Commander of the V Corps, aboard a 2A5 Leopard tank.

Facing page.

US servicemen chatting with young Kosovars.

Left.

A member of North Carolina's National Guard giving toys to Moldavian children.



gained its independence. Military tradition is definitely a motivating factor and a very important part of our culture.

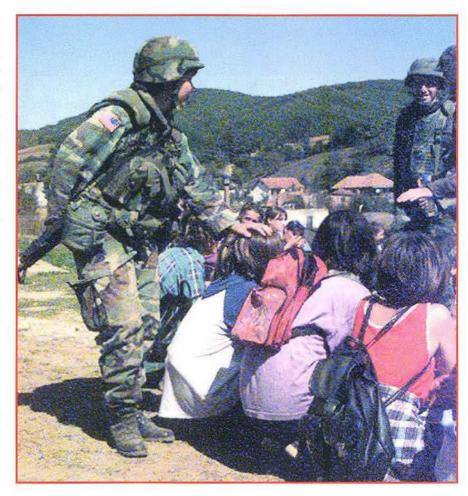
What is the relationship today between the US Army and the American citizens? What is the most important feedback between the military and civil society in America today?

We have a very good relationship with our citizenry. If

one is to believe opinion polls, the Army consistently ranks at the top as applies to "trust" in large institutions. Many people believe that the Army lives by its values, and indeed we are proud of our record of shaping the lives of young Americans. We imbue with a sense them , commitment, pride and selflessness in service to the Country. Finally, every soldier eventually returns to civilian society, bringing skills and experiences that contribute to the growth of our Nation.

In the US land forces, the National Guard and Army Reserve have great roles. Has the experiment with the integration of guardsmen and reservist units in Multinational Forces and Observers (MFO) in Sinai been the source of innovations in policy for the reserve forces?

The MFO mission and the use



General Eric K. Shinseki was born in Lihue, Hawaii, on September 28, 1942. He graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1965 with a Bachelor of Science Degree.

General Shinseki has held a variety of command and staff assignments both in the continental United States and overseas: among others, Artillery Forward Observer and Squadron Commander in Vietnam, Staff Officer with Headquarters US Army Hawaii and US Army Pacific, Professor of English at the US Military Academy.

At Fort Bliss, Texas, he served as the Regimental Adjutant of the 3rd Cavalry Regiment and as the Executive Officer of its 1st Squadron.

General Shinseki's ten-plus years of service in Europe included assignments in Germany as Commander of a Squadron, 7th Cavalry, and Commander, 2nd Brigade. Furthermore, he has been Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations, Plans and Training and Assistant Division Commander for Manoeuvre.

He served as the Assistant Chief of Staff G3 (Operations, Plans and Training) of the VII Corps, and as Deputy Chief of Staff for Support at LANDSOUTH (Verona, Italy). From March 1994 to July 1995, General

Shinseki commanded the 1st Cavalry Division in Texas.

In 1996, upon his promotion to Lieutenant General, he became the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans, US Army. In 1997 he was appointed to the rank of General and assumed duties as Commanding General of the Allied Land Forces in Central Europe, and

Commander of the NATO Stabilization Force in Bosnia-Herzegovina. On November 24, 1998, he assumed duties as Vice Chief of Staff of the Army and, on June 22, 1999, as Chief of Staff.

General Shinseki holds a Master of Arts Degree in English Literature and attended, among others, the Army Command and General Staff College, and the National War College.

He holds numerous decorations and awards.

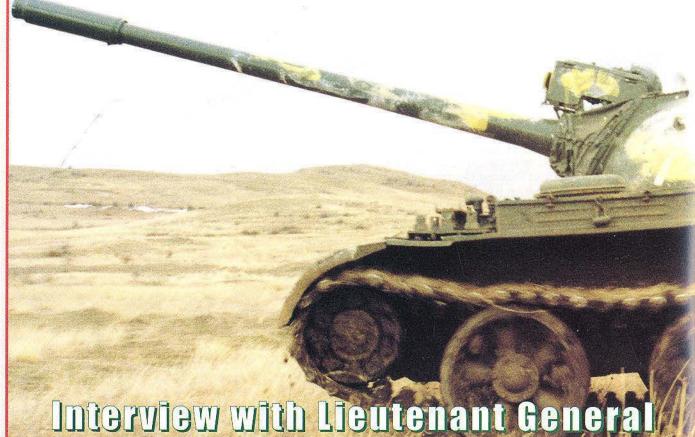
General Eric K. Shinseki is married and has two children.

of the Reserve component therein has been more a consequence of the increasing role and pace of missions experienced by the US Army globally. As is known, the Reserve component (both National Guard and Reserves) makes approximately 54% of our Army formations. With this percentage of reservists, coupled with an increased pace of operations around the world, the logic of increased use of the Reserve component is justified. In the case of the Balkan operations, many of the skills required, such as Civil Affairs and psychological operations, are resident primarily in the Reserve component, thus making the use of these soldiers practical. They have served exceptionally well in all missions assigned.

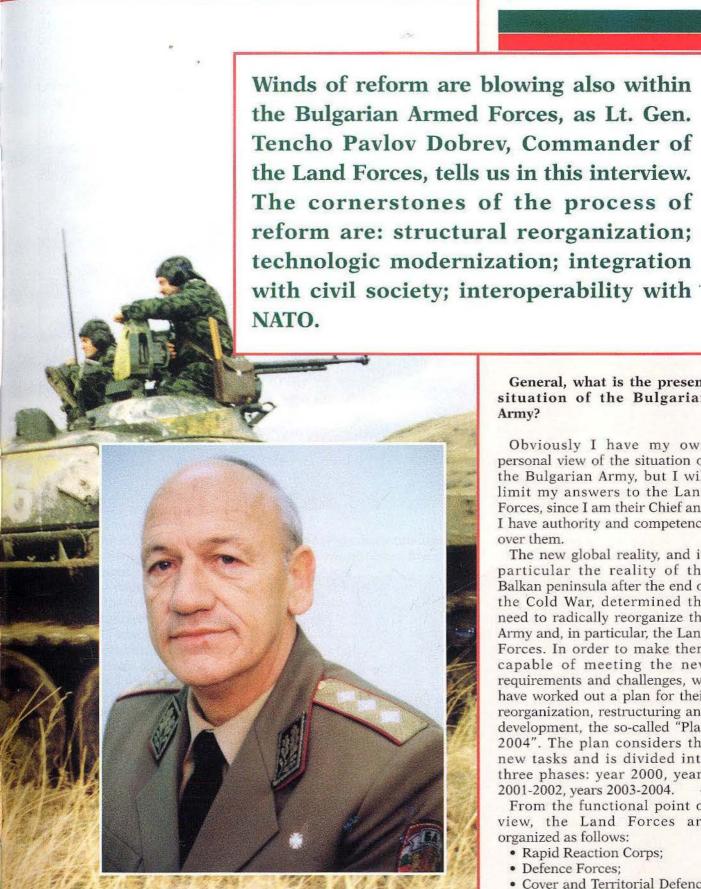
* Journalist

BULGARIA THE NEW ARMY

by Enrico Magnani *



Interview with Lieutenant General Tencho Pavlov Dobrev Commander of the Land Forces



General, what is the present situation of the Bulgarian Army?

Obviously I have my own personal view of the situation of the Bulgarian Army, but I will limit my answers to the Land Forces, since I am their Chief and I have authority and competence over them.

The new global reality, and in particular the reality of the Balkan peninsula after the end of the Cold War, determined the need to radically reorganize the Army and, in particular, the Land Forces. In order to make them capable of meeting the new requirements and challenges, we have worked out a plan for their reorganization, restructuring and development, the so-called "Plan 2004". The plan considers the new tasks and is divided into three phases: year 2000, years 2001-2002, years 2003-2004.

From the functional point of view, the Land Forces are organized as follows:

- Rapid Reaction Corps;
- · Defence Forces;
- · Cover and Territorial Defence Forces.

At the moment, we are at the end of the first phase, during which we accomplished the reform of the Land Forces Command and Rapid Reaction Corps, with their logistic and support units. The units of the Rapid Reaction Corps have also been reorganized, together with those earmarked for the participation in Peace Support Operations and for the constitution of multinational units. A section of the Intelligence, Communication and Engineer formations within the Land Forces Command has also been modernized.

Right now, as a result of the activities carried out within "Plan 2004", our Land Forces have a combat-ready Rapid Reaction Corps, while the restructuring and redeployment of the Defence and Territorial Forces is in progress.

The Bulgarian Army has a relatively limited experience as regards UN-led peacekeeping operations, but it has taken part in the constitution of SFOR and KFOR. What lessons have been learned from these commitments?

Land Forces units participated

in peacekeeping operations in the Balkan peninsula, within the SFOR and KFOR multinational forces. The successful outcome of these missions depends on the solution of some problems.

First, the specific training of our units. We started studying the experiences made by the NATO Armies. In this respect, our participation in multinational forces together with Dutch and Greek contingents has been very useful.

Taking into account the lessons we learned, we established a training centre specialized in preparing the units earmarked for participation in UN-led operations.

Equipment and weapons must conform to NATO prescriptions. This is a priority, which goes together with the wish, expressed by the leaders of our Republic, that Bulgaria should become a member of the Atlantic Alliance.

In view of this, we attribute great importance to the study of languages, which is an

Women volunteers of the 61st Motorized Brigade.



indispensable factor in order to acquire interoperability with other NATO Armies and to conform to their standards.

Within the Land Forces Command there are special centres capable of organizing, rapidly and efficiently, the operational activity of the units called by the Government to participate in UN missions.

Is the adhesion to NATO a national strategic objective? What are its possible consequences?

Integration within NATO is really a national strategic objective, for which there is political and social consensus. This was clearly expressed in the "Declaration of the National Assembly" of May 1997, and confirmed in the "National Security Concept" of April 1999, as well as in "Plan 2004" for the organization and development of the Army.

The institution of a wholly European security system is more than necessary and we believe that there are no alternatives. Furthermore, only through its integration within NATO, Bulgaria can reorganize its economy, build and renew national infrastructure, quickly fill the technological gap and pursue higher-level political, economic and military objectives. Thus, if we ask ourselves how this will affect our Land Forces. it is easy to answer that the participation in the Alliance is going to sharply increase our operational capabilities, making our rather limited forces more mobile and better equipped.

At any rate, our integration in the collective security system will entail the improvement of the capabilities necessary to perform certain tasks, such as, for instance:

 participation in multinational peacekeeping operations;



- joint NATO exercises on our territory;
- far-reaching reform of the Land Forces, according to "Plan 2004".

In general terms, we can say that the reform is based on four basic aspects:

- structural;
- technologic;
- · social;
- interoperability with NATO land forces.

From the structural viewpoint, during the period 2000-2004 the reform will concern more than 180 Land Forces units. By the end of 2000, thirty of them were reorganized, and an equal number was put at the Command's disposal. At the same time, the reorganization of the Command itself was completed,

so as to make it compatible from the organizational and functional point of view.

The Land Forces Command pays due attention to the structural and organizational aspects which concern personnel and equipment of the Rapid Reaction Corps. The organization concerns also the Immediate Reaction Forces and, by 2004, will lead to the creation of the Defence Forces and Territorial Defence. From the technologic point of view, it is envisaged to reequip the Land Forces in order to adapt them to NATO standards.

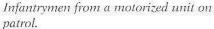
From the social viewpoint, the realization of the reforms affects mostly the personnel of the Land Forces. The gradual discharge of a large number of servicemen and their social integration are

Infantrymen in combat training.

difficult measures. In this respect, we consult Countries like the US, Great Britain and Germany, to profit by their experience.

The Ministry of Defence has organized special centres for the retraining and social readaptation of the soldiers who, by the end of this year, will be reduced by 10%.

Another key element of the reform is to implement the interoperability with NATO. Our soldiers will thus be able to participate in joint activities, at both unit and command level, adjusting to the structures and forces of the Alliance, in order to





shorter.

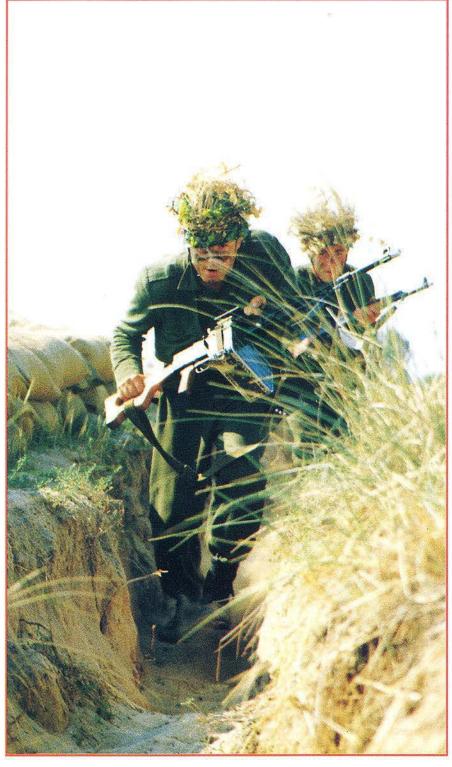
What are the priorities in the process of interoperability with NATO? Will it be possible to achieve standardization in training and compatibility of weapon systems?

experiences, which would make the way ahead easier and

The achievement interoperability with NATO, and in particular with its land forces, is a key element for the integration of our Country with the Euro-Atlantic security structures. The inplementation of MAP (Membership Action Plan) through the "Annual National Programme" implies introduction, knowledge and application of the administrative and logistic standards of the Alliance.

To achieve interoperability, the main areas of action are:

 restructuring reorganization of the Land Forces along the lines fixed by "Plan 2004" and MAP:

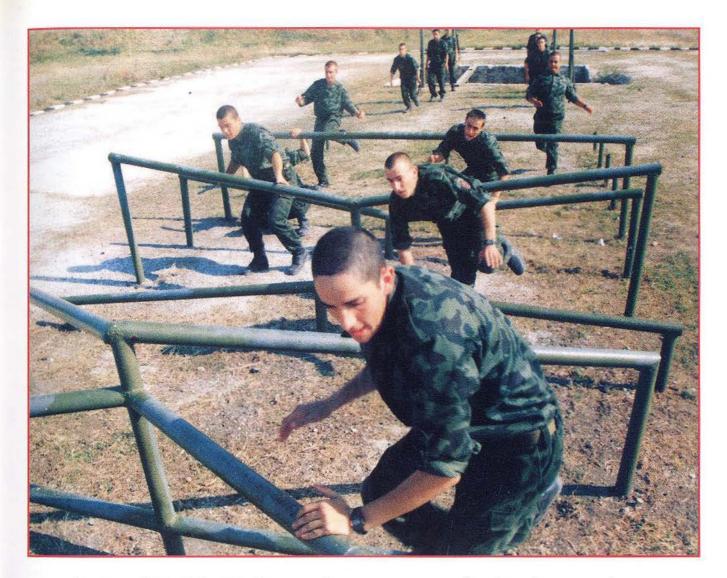


perform all the functions envisaged by the peacekeeping operations.

Our soldiers understand very well the present reform and its consequences. In fact they are aware that the result of this process will be an Army of reduced dimensions, but highly

professional, adequate to the times and capable of assuring the territorial integrity and the sovereignty of the Nation.

Bulgaria cooperates with the other NATO nations of the Balkans, i.e. Greece and



- realization of 19 of the 79 "Objectives for Partnership", which prescribe the attainment of a determinate level of interoperability for the forces and relevant equipment assigned to Peace Support Operations and to those within Art.5 of the Washington Treaty;
- preparation and implementation of specific programmes for the development of particularly important areas, such as linguistic training for Command personnel, consultation system, C3I systems, logistic support, training of PSO forces and production of official documents concerning the employment of the Land Forces.

As a result of the implementation of "plan 2004", the Land Forces

Command was restructured according to NATO standards. At present, the reform of the Army Corps and their units is under way.

On the basis of the reorganized units, our Land Forces will include: a Rapid Reaction Corps, Immediate Reaction Forces, Defence Forces and Territorial Forces.

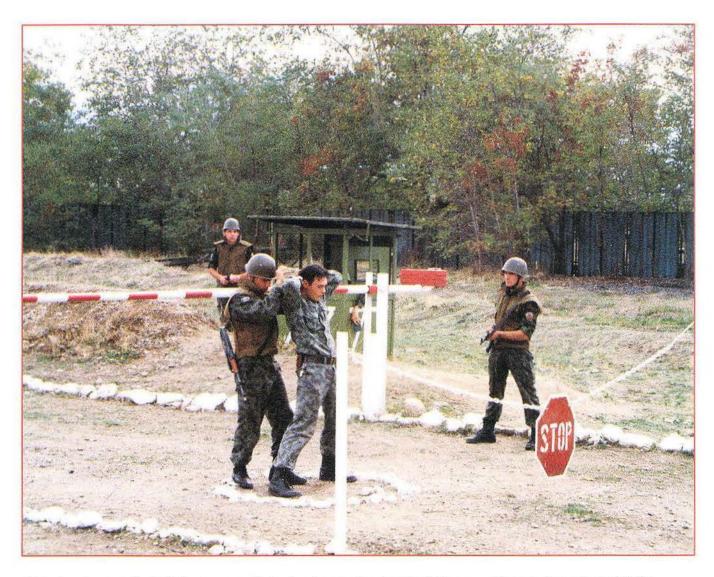
The process of planning and revision, which is taking place with the active participation of the whole Country, includes interoperability objectives and partnership objectives.

In 1999 the Land Forces have been working for the achievement of 17 interoperability objectives. At the beginning of 2000, Bulgaria was assigned 82 partnership objectives, 19 of which concerning directly the

Physical training at Pleven's Training Centre for junior Commanders and recruits.

Land Forces. They will be our priorities up to 2006. This year we are working for the achievement of 11 partnership objectives concerning land operations, peacekeeping training, logistic support, tactical modernization and the establishment of structures for civil-military cooperation.

On the basis of the agreed time limits and of the available resources, in 2000 we constituted and trained the following units for Peace Support Operations: a mechanized company; an NBC company; an NBC recce platoon;



"Peacekeeping training" of the troops of the 2nd Command, Rapid Reaction Forces.

an Engineer company; an Engineer patoon (now in service with the Dutch contingent of SFOR); a transport platoon (with the Greek SFOR contingent); an Engineer platoon (with KFOR).

According to "Plan 2004", a defence potential is going to be established within the sector of the operational capabilities for NATO missions. It will include:

- a mechanized Brigade;
- · an Engineer battalion;
- · an NBC unit.

Another important element for the achievement of interoperability is the participation in the MPFSEE Brigade of a mechanized battalion and several Officers for the Brigade HQ.

It must be noted that training is proceeding esclusively according to NATO standards, with the periodical issue of an operational-readiness certificate. Most of the practical realization of the interoperability process takes place through the units participating in the activities of "Partnership for Peace".

The Land Forces have taken part in the following activities:

- 1996: two exercises, in Albania and the United States;
- 1997: two exercises, in Bulgaria and Greece;
- 1998: five exercises, in Greece, US, Rumania, Macedonia and Turkey;
- 1999: three exercises, in

Greece, Canada and Italy;

 2000: six exercises, in Portugal, Albania, Rumania, Turkey, US and Bulgaria.

Five exercises will be carried out in 2001.

As a whole, more than 300 servicemen, between Officers, NCOs and troops, have taken part in these activities since 1996.

During the exercises, the training level was practically assessed. This also permitted a professional enrichment, besides improving the training level.

The achievement of interoperability between our Land Forces and NATO's would be unthinkable without the standardization of training, which will be obtained through the reform of the School system. This falls within the province of the

General Staff, and therefore I shall not discuss it. Instead, I would like to discuss the activities which concern directly the Land Forces personnel. As we said, at this point the priority areas appear to be: linguistic training for Command personnel, Command and control procedures and exchange of information.

A particular element of the standardization of training is the certification of language proficiency according to STANAG 6001. At the present moment, 193 Officers have passed this test.

Another path towards standardization is the attendance, by our Officers, of foreign War Colleges, Academies and other military schools. Up to now, 104 Officers have completed a training cycle abroad.

As regards the interoperability of armaments and equipment, it is possible to achieve it through the employment of materials produced in NATO countries, or with the production of these systems by our industries.

Do your modernization plans envisage the adoption of systems produced in Western Europe, and if so, in what sectors?

In 1998 we made a careful analysis of our armoured forces, from both the quantitative and the qualitative point of view. Considering the reorganization envisaged by "Plan 2004", we prepared a programme for modernization and rearmament of the Land Forces, which goes up to 2015. For the next three years, the programme aims at acquiring a highly reliable costeffective general-purpose diesel vehicle, with a good ecological index. The purchase of modern tanks, infantry weapons and artillery materials from NATO countries depends on the availability of financial resources, which are rather Lt. Gen. Tencho Pavlov Dobrev was born in Sofia on May 25, 1942.

He attended the "G. Damyanov" Military Academy in 1965, and the War College from 1970 to 1973. After commanding several minor units, he held a number of Staff positions at the Engineer Department, the Engineer Inspectorate and the Training and Operations Department of the Land Forces.

Gen. Dobrev attended the "Voroscilov" War College in Russia from 1984 to 1986, and later held the position of Department Chief and Chief of the Engineer Directorate at the Land Forces Command and the General Staff.

In 1998 he was appointed Assistant Chief of Staff for Logistics and, on July 11, 2000, Commander of the Land Forces.

Lt. Gen. Tencho Pavlov Dobrev is married and has two sons.

limited at the moment. But I believe that, in the course of the reform, we shall be able to look in that direction.

What is the role of the Army in Bulgarian society? What is the activity of the Armed Forces in favour of the civilian population?

The reform envisages the disbandment or redeployment of many units. During the Cold War the Army was mainly deployed along the southern border. Now many barracks, located in the border towns, will have to be closed. This has had an immediate negative impact on the local economy. All the mayors of the cities concerned. without exception, have insistently demanded that those installations remain open (and this shows the bond between Armed Forces and civil society, a bond that, from the point of view of practical benefits, goes back to 1878, when the Army was constituted). This difficult question will have to be studied and investigated for several years specialized research institutes. The bonds mentioned

above are mainly "horizontal", i.e. with local authorities and social organizations/institutions.

Last year, the Land Forces partecipated in two large-scale national campaigns: in April, 6076 men and 111 heavy vehicles have been engaged in the national "spring-cleaning", and in the summer the Land Forces took an active part in putting out countless fires caused by the worst drought of the last 50 years.

"Plan 2004" also provides for a radical reorganization of the forces, in order to face crisis situations in the whole national territory. Right now, my Command is working at the completion of modules organized by subject: first type, against fires; second, wintertime natural disasters; third, floods; fourth, industrial disasters; fifth, earthquakes.

The programme envisages the training of personnel, preparation of equipment and activation of a specific communications net, all within the framework of a fruitful interaction with local Authorities and central Administration.

*Journalist

JURAINE THE NEW ARMY

Enrico Magnani

INTERVIEW MITE CENERAL PETRO IVAROVYCE SEULVIAK DEPUTY DEFENCE MINISTER AND COMMANDER OF THE LAND TROOFS

General, Ukraine has been an independent nation since 1991. The Army is going through a development phase, and the readers of our magazine would like to know the situation of the Land Troops and the prospects for their future development.

The Army is at the Nation's service at all times. Therefore, since the first days of its birth, the independent Ukrainian State has been carrying out a very precise work, in order to

strengthen its Armed Forces, of which the Land Troops are the essential part.

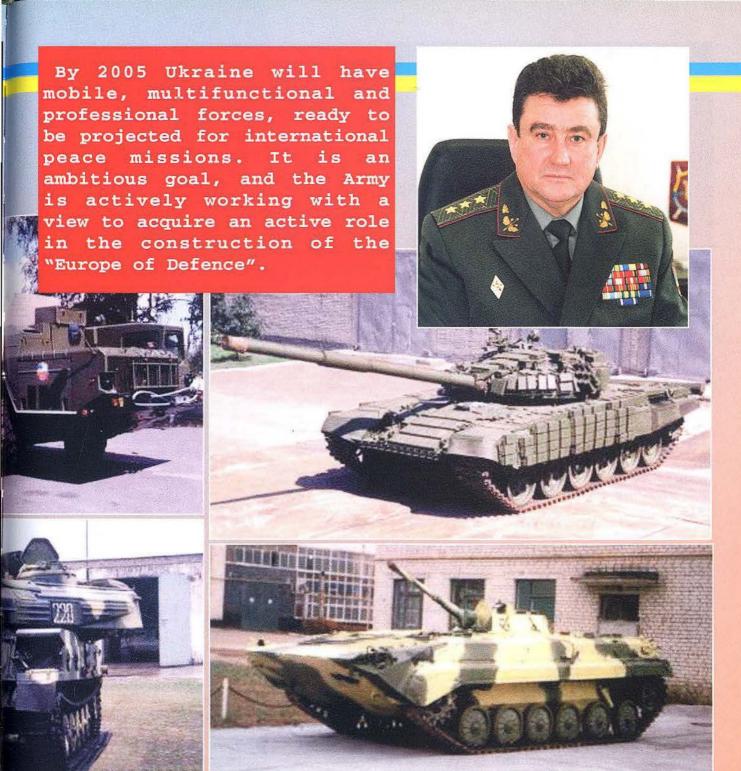
The Army's main tasks consist in ensuring the inviolability of the borders, the territorial integrity of the Country, the execution of the international commitments for the maintenance of peace and international security.

In 1997, the President of Ukraine and the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces approved the "National Programme of Training and



Development of the Armed Forces", which envisages the creation of forces that, albeit not very numerous, must be, at the same time, powerful and mobile.

On the basis of this document the "Programme for the Development of the Ukrainian



Land Troops" has been worked out. This project has been studied considering, above all, the Nation's economic capabilities, and its main objective is the establishment of a mobile, multifunctional, well-sized, balanced, well-armed and well trained instrument, in line

with the directives of the parlamentarian assemblies.

At the same time, the reform of the Army's completion system goes on, together with the improvement of the management system. At the start of this process, in 1992, the number of land soldiers inherited from the Soviet Army decreased from 700,000 to 400,000, and now they are only 120,000.

The course is long and complex, but I can already mention some good results. We moved from the Military Districts (High Commands, often combined) to the operational



Above. A Mig29 of the Air Force.

Right.
Two M124V helicopters taking off.

Commands, which are the strategic Commands of our new Armed Forces. Another success is the beginning of the creation of a new operational Unit, according to the principle of the "rapid reaction forces". In the Course of this programme, we are also introducing a military system of the Brigade/battalion type.

Furthermore, an important decision has been made as regards the training of personnel. In this sense, the reform of the Military Academies is almost completed. A training school for junior specialists has been founded, on the basis of the "Training Centre", also known as "Desna". In conformity with the Programme, a gradual transition to a contractual completion is under way.

I see our future Land Troops as a highly professional, non-

numerous formation, equipped with modern weapons.

What is the role of the Land Troops within the national community? Are they an element of national cohesion and solidarity? History teaches us that the Slavic peoples settled in the best lands of the world following the routes of military campaigns, battles and major wars. For example, the second World War tormented our land twice. Perhaps this is the price we have

to pay for the beautiful Country that was given to us by God. Probably, it was precisely our tragic and bloody history that convinced our people that the defence of the Motherland is the most honoured duty. The Army, since ancient times, has always been, for our society, an example of courage, loyalty and victory, an element of unity and national solidarity.

Considering the number of our Land Troops, we can confidently say that they have a considerable influence on the education of our youth as well as on our society at large.



Ukraine is so important for NATO that the Alliance has established a special relationship with Kiev. What is the Army's perception of "Partnership for Peace"?

On February 8, 1994, Ukraine -



Artillerymen on training.

the first Country to do so among the Eastern Countries - signed the framework Document of "Partnership for Peace", and on May 25 submitted its introduction Document.

On September 14, 1995, at the NATO HQ, in Brussels, the ceremony of official approval of the first individual Partnership Programme was held. On July 19, 1996, the Atlantic Council, with the participation of Ukraine according to the "16+1" formula, approved the individual Programme of Partnership between Ukraine and NATO for the period 1996-1998.

These new relations are developing in a very dynamic way, especially thanks to the fact that we consider the programme very important for the general structure of stability and security in Europe. In fact, we are convinced that it is a fundamental element for the future development and practical improvement of NATO's relations with the Countries of the North-Atlantic Cooperation Council and with other OSCE members, in the sector of defence, military cooperation and peace support operations. Our Country cannot keep out of this process.

The approval of the "Partnership for Peace" programme was a correct and timely step, which avoided new "lines of division" and favoured the strengthening of stability and security in Europe, and will become an important mechanism for cooperation towards peace.

It is also very important that equal chances be given to all participants and, at the same time, that each partner be allowed to manage its relations with NATO according to its own interests and capabilities.

The main priority-lines of cooperation between our Land Troops and NATO, within the "Individual Partnership-Programme", derive from the tasks we are preparing to tackle.

It is therefore necessary to know the terminology and procedures of the Alliance, to study the planning and organization methods of the exercises and to prepare the Armed Forces to participate in A BTR70 amphibious vehicle of the Land Troops.

"Partnership for Peace".

All these measures foster the development of stable relations with NATO members and partner Countries and directly strengthen the external guarantees for Ukraine's national security.

In this cooperation, the Land Troops Command sees the future possibility of enlarging the geography of our Armed Forces's participation international peace-operations as well as in Joint Military Tactical Forces capable of conducting peace operations and of preventing occurrence of crisis situations. Furthermore, cooperation with NATO includes a joint activity of construction of prototypes of new weapons (assembled also in Ukraine) as well as maintenance and modernization of the existing systems.

Besides, an active participation favours the formation of a certain experience in the conduct of joint operations with the UN peace contingents and under the NATO aegis. For us, the most important factor is the possibility of providing our servicemen with a preparation meeting all the necessary requirements. As a matter of fact, from 1992 to 2000, about 9000 servicemen have served with the Ukrainian peace Contingent.

Next to the PfP initiatives, Ukraine is very active in regional cooperation projects, such as the constitution of a mixed battalion with Poland and the establishment of military agreements within the Black Sea Community. Are there any other regional initiatives?

Our policy is oriented to the solution of the disputes among Nations through peaceful



actions. This is why an important part of the national Programme for the development of the Armed Forces is devoted to cooperation issues.

The Programme envisages cooperation not only with our neighbours, but also with all the other Countries in the world, in order to guarantee peace and security for all. Our policy of regional cooperation with the Countries of the Black Sea region is very active.

Moreover, since almost every year the Tyssa and Stryl rivers cause a lot of problems, we had the idea of creating the Ukrainian - Rumanian - Hungarian "Tyssa" engineering Unit, which will shortly be capable of dealing with the damages caused by natural disasters in the area.

Some months ago, Ukraine sent troops to the UN force in southern Lebanon and, at the same time, is conducting other peace operations. What lessons have you learned from these numerous interventions?

Our participation in peace operations started back in 1992 in the former Yugoslavia. In this period we have gained experience in the conduct of international peace-operations. The main events in which our military participated were aimed at restoring the functionality of the essential infrastructure in Yugoslavia and Angola. Therefore today we have a remarkable experience in assisting the victims of conflicts.

In recent years the Land Troops Command increased its employment of the Aviation in peace operations in different parts of the world. The number of these participations shows a remarkable increase in the tasks performed by our pilots.

Our Aviation was employed for the first time in a peace operation in July 1995, when the 15th Helicopter Unit. with only three aircraft, was introduced in Yugoslavia.

Our airmen proved to be highlevel professionals. Already the following year, in Eastern Stowing ammunition before an exercise.

Slavonia, two new squadrons, with 12 helicopters, were assigned to the UN Peace Forces. Their tasks were: transporting the UN special Contingent and its loads; reconnoitering and patrolling the division area; medical evacuation and search/rescue activities.

On the whole, from the beginning of the mission, approximately 5000 flights have been carried out, for a total of 5000 flight ours.

In June 1999, Ukraine participated in the peace operation in Kosovo with the 14th Unit, equipped with four Mi-5 helicopters.

Today the Unit is stationed at the USAF Bondstil Base, and continues to perform its tasks. The average flying time of Crew Commanders is 145 hours. Obviously, we cannot yet reach these results at our permanent bases.

The positive results achieved with the employment of helicopters of the Land Troops' Aviation led the UN administration to propose the participation of our helicopter Units in the UN mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

In this way, the Army Aviation's participation in peace operations permits to keep the proper technical level and, besides, improves the training standards of the pilots engaged in day and night missions in different weather conditions.

Some years ago the Army constituted the "Steel" Division, a special formation from which it draws the Units to be employed in "out of area" peace operations. Could you tell us something about this Major Unit?



The question is not completely correct, probably because of the Unit's name. The "Steel" Division has a long and glorious history. It received its honoured name in 1918, during the civil war. The Division acted successfully also in WWII.

This Unit jealously keeps the military traditions of the previous generations, but it is a normal mechanized Division with a typical role and a typical organization. It is included in the Army system, and enjoys a very high consideration for its military preparation. It was not specifically trained for peace missions, but is located near the well-known Training Centre for International Peace Forces, within the Yavoriv Range. Some units of this Division participated in peace exercises as well as in the "Peace Shield" international ones. This could be the reason for the imprecise description of the "Steel" Division as a special Unit for peace operations.

Next to the Armed Forces.

Ukraine has a National Guard and a Frontier Guard. What are the relations between these two organizations and the Army?

The National Guard, in compliance with a Presidential Decree, has been disbanded and partially incorporated into the Army. The Frontier Guard, on the contrary, continues to perform it functions. Together with the Army, it is responsible for the defence of our borders. Furthermore, we have joint tasks in territorial defence. In case of problems, the Army and the Frontier Guard are ready to help each other.

In general, at the moment of the reduction of the 700,000-strong Soviet Army located on the Ukrainian territory, many servicemen moved to other military structures of the State. So, we often meet former colleagues also among the frontier guards. Therefore, we can say that ours is not a working relation only.



Forces" will be a fact by the end of 2005.

At the moment, the completion of the Armed Forces takes place on the basis of a mixed principle, which envisages both conscription and on-contract service.

The number of on-contract personnel is now about 30% of the total force.

In this phase, the most appropriate solution is the development of the present completion system (the mixed one), with a successive transition to a professional Army with long-term contracts.

In the initial phase, the professional soldiers are used to complete the units which employ the most sophisticated weapon systems. In the future, according to experience and experiments, as well as to feasibility studies, most Army

Above.

A T80UD tank employed by the Land Troops.

Right.

A Ukrainian serviceman during the peace-mission in Bosnia.

The Armies' professionalization favours the creation of a new space for the development of a military structure in Europe: there is the on-contract military service, and at the same time the number of conscripts is decreasing. How is this problem tackled in Ukraine?

There is no doubt that everything must be done by professionals. The higher the professional training, the stronger the Army. This factor has a remarkable influence on the military structure and its optimization, not only in Europe but all over the world.

In the years following our independence, our objectives were reformed, in the direction of a better functional structure,



and the foundations were laid down for Armed Forces corresponding to the requirements of today.

The realization of the objectives listed in the "National Programme of Training and Development of the Armed Units will be manned by oncontract personnel. By the end of 2005, the Armed Forces should have adopted the contractual system. It is a long and difficult process, but the majority of our citizens is in favour of the change.

A/A "Strila 10" missile vehicle.



As a consequence of the disintegration of the Soviet Union, Ukraine has inherited a strong defence industry. What is its present situation?

With the end of the Soviet Union, Ukraine inherited about one third of its defence industry: 700 firms and 139 research-organizations and groups, which deal exclusively with military productions. But our Country does not need such a large industry. The government, therefore, decided to convert some of the plants.

Today, with a skillful reform based on the scientific and technical productive potential, it is still possible to organize a world-level competitive production. The elements of the reform were: the high level of the scientific knowledge, both fundamental and applied; scientific research and designing in the sector of weapon construction and military technique; high technology, both defence-oriented and dual; highly

qualified - and relatively cheap - labour force.

Besides, the defence industry has kept, and is developing, some sectors whose products meet the international requirements. For example, the missile and satellite sector and the construction of transport and military aircraft.

Furthermore the T-80 UD and T-84 tanks successfully compete on the international market. Our Country is a world leader in the production of navigation systems, self-aligning heads for surface-toair missiles, radio-technical control stations, artillery audiometric systems, sophisticated management systems, radio relays, radiotechnical and radioelectronic warfare equipment, aircraft and missile alignment systems. The electronic and optical sectors are also well developed.

In conclusion, I believe that at this moment our industry is capable of producing most modern and technical armaments, either autonomously or in cooperation with our partners. The existence of a powerful repair-base for the renewal of the main types of weapons, together with a high military technique, enables us not only to be well prepared, but also to carry out a thorough modernization.

* Journalist

Colonel General Petro Ivanovych Shul'iak was born in Korshev on March 29, 1945.

After his civilian education, he attended the multibranch Military School in Kiev, and was Platoon Leader in 1967 and Company Commander in 1971.

From 1972 to 1975, he attended the Military Academy, and became Regimental Chief of Staff and Regiment Commander. Chief of Staff of a Division from 1984 to 1986, he attended the General Staff Academy, and in 1988 was appointed Commander of a Division.

From 1991 to 1998, Gen. Shul'iak held the high positions of Branch Commander, Military Region Commander and Army Commander.

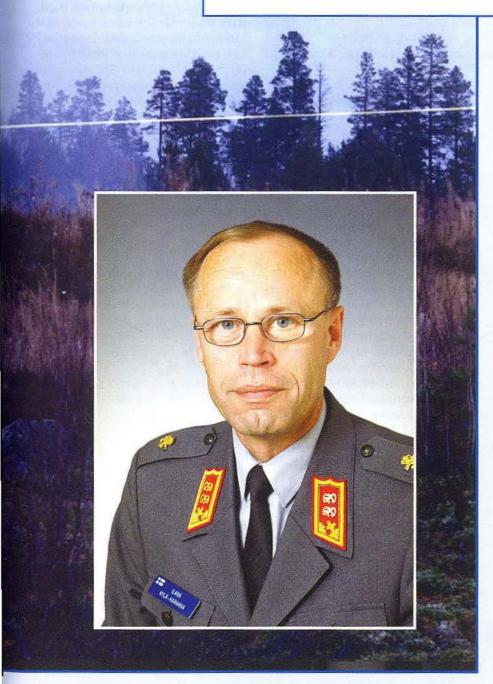
Since September 1998, he has been Deputy Defence Minister and Commander of the Land Forces.

He has been awarded the Order of the Red Star and the Order of Bohdan Khmelnyts'kyi, 3rd Degree. Col.Gen. Shul'iak is married and has two sons.

FINENEW ARMY

by Enrico Magnani *

Interview with Major General Ilkka Eemeli Kylä-Harakka Chief of Staff of the Finnish Army The Finnish Army is engaged in several peacekeeping operations, but its primary duty is to defend the national territory. Therefore, it is structured and organized to operate in the difficult arctic environment. In the following interview, Major General Ilkka Eemeli Kylä Harakka, Army Chief of Staff, discusses with us these and other subjects.

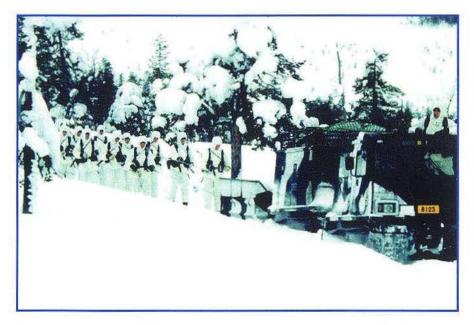


General, could you summarize, for the readers of "Rivista Militare", the present situation of the Finnish Army and its future prospects?

The Finnish Armed Forces are oriented towards territorial defence, and their organization takes many elements into account: geopolitical position, war experience, extension of the national territory, political support and, above all, availability of funds. The main objective of our defence is to maintain the control of the strategically important areas and, by taking advantage of the size of our territory, delay and wear out the aggressor in order to defeat him, with superior forces, at a place of our choice. For geographic and practical reasons, the Army has a primary responsibility for this kind of defence.

The Army's strength amounts to about 380,000 men, i.e. 75% of the total manpower of the Armed Forces (500,000). The bulk of the Army is formed at the moment of mobilization, and is armed and equipped with materials stored in various parts of the Country. In peacetime its units work mostly as training centres, but are always ready to become operational on mobilization.

The operational forces consist of two armoured Brigades, three reinforced "Jaeger" Brigades



(rapidly deployable, also called "2005" Brigades) and six "Jaeger" Brigades. Local defence is ensured by eleven light-infantry, defensive-type Brigades, and by a number of smaller units (battalions and "ranger" companies). On the whole, we have twenty-two Brigades.

The Army is divided into several Branches whose units can organically belong to the Brigades or put together according to need. The Branches are: Infantry (which includes the armoured troops), Field and A/A Artillery, Engineers, Communications and Logistics.

After the Cold War many western Armies started important restructuring programmes, in order to adjust their organization to the changed politico-strategic international scenario. What measures have been taken by the Finnish Army in order to face the new challenges?

Our defensive plans against a possible attack have been studied on the basis of three assumptions. The first takes into consideration pressures and threats with a limited use of force.

The second considers a strategic attack by surprise, aimed at paralyzing and occupying the strategic objectives, subjugating the Country's political leadership. In the third case, our plans imagine a large-scale offensive, with the intention of occupying strategic areas or using our territory as a base against other Countries. The first assumptions are the most likely, but the third one cannot be ruled out. Therefore, keeping in mind that we must defend the whole of our territory, we must have a strong and numerous Army. This reflects on Commands and Forces, as well as on the principle of general conscription.

Despite all this, by 2008 the total strength of our Armed Forces will go down from 540,000 to 430,000. Most reductions will take place within the Army. This is why the number of our Brigades went down from 27 to 22. For the moment, this must be considerd the lowest limit.

Considering the possible materialization of unforeseeable threats, we are also working at the transformation of 3 Brigades into ready-deployment Units, capable of facing any kind of situation.

Furthermore, we are improving our capabilities in crisis management within the international commitments and equipping and training a readyemployment Brigade which, with some of its components, has already participated in operations in Kosovo.

Could the creation of rapidreaction Units, the new doctrine of employment and the acquisition of last-generation weapon systems be seen as a Revolution in Military Affairs (RMA) within the Finnish Army?

Finland is a small nation and, with its limited resources, cannot make any revolution in its Armed Forces, particularly if we consider the size of the Army. Therefore we must rely on long-term planning, not necessarily aiming at "the best", but rather at the "good enough".

The development of our Brigades did not start from nil: we have had an increase in firepower, mobility and protection of the existing Units. This, on the other hand, does not have a negative influence on the value of the other troops to be employed in the special conditions of terrain and climate of our Country. In short, those who want everything could very likely end up with nothing. This is a dilemma which does not concern the small countries alone.

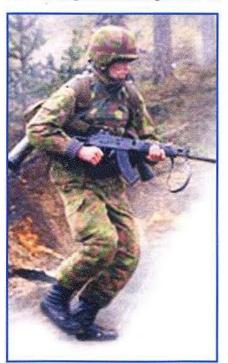
It would be wrong to appraise Finland's military capabilities considering only its Army. Air Defence is a very important element, and the Finnish Air Force is probably one of the most modern in Europe. The Navy is well suited to the requirements of the Country. Our defensive capability results from the collective work of the three Services, and must be evaluated as a whole.

What are the most important programmes recently completed or about to be realized by the Army?

As I said, the cornerstone of the Army's development is the

strengthening of the three rapidreaction Brigades. The relative programmes are hinged on firepower, mobility survivability of the units. On this basis, we are acquiring "smart" munitions, AMOS mortars, APC (PASI) platforms and IFV CV-90s, and testing medium-range air defence systems. The infantry units have been provided with night-vision Finnish-made equipment, "SPIKE" antitank missiles, field radios and a UAV system have been acquired. Other programmes under way envisage the improvement of our C4IS systems. The "Nordic Support Helicopter Programme" (NSHP) falls within this picture. A final decision on this programme will be made next summer, with the probable acquisition of fifteen or twenty helicopters. To offset the reduction in the number of armoured Brigades, we think of acquiring a certain number of combat helicopters. A political debate is now in progress and a decision is expected soon.

The structure of the Armed Forces is based on a relatively small number of professionals and an important component of



conscripts and reserves.
Considering the general
European trend towards fully
professional forces, what is the
attitude of the Finnish
Government?

Conscription is essential for our defence. Each year about 27,000 elements (including a number of women volunteers) carry out their military duty. This is equal to 80% of the total male vield of each annual contingent. The operational efficiency is assured through refresher courses held every five years for the most important jobs with a yearly attendance of approximately 30,000 servicemen. In this way we achieve the result of having the necessary high number of reservists at a reasonable cost. The conscription Army is highly regarded, due to our history and our war experience. Finland is a very large Country with a relatively small population, and can meet its military requirements only in the way I have just described. It would be impossible to defend ourselves only with professional forces.

The Air Force and the Navy include a good number of professionals. As a matter of fact, as I said, there is not a single policy: we must decide what is best on the basis of resources and needs.

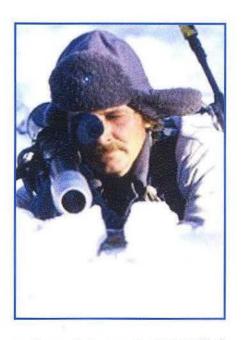
Finland must be defended by the Finns. We have no obligations outside our borders, nor any guarantee of external aid in case of need. We must defend ourselves on land, in the sky and at sea, and can keep a credible force only with general conscription.

Finland has a vast and long experience in peacekeeping operations under the UN aegis,

Above

A Finnish infantryman training in a snowy environment.

Left.An infantryman training in a forest-



and participates in NATO-led multinational Forces in ex-Yugoslavia. What lessons have been learned from these missions?

We have learned very useful lessons from the peacekeeping UN missions and our recent engagements in IFOR, SFOR and KFOR. The constitution of multinational forces offers to Countries like Finland, which don't belong to military alliances, the opportunity of participating in crisis-management operations, At present we have an infantry Lebanon. battalion in mechanized battalion in Kosovo, a CIMIC company in Bosnia, and several groups of observers in different places.

In the future our Armed Forces will be capable of undertaking greater responsibilities in crisis management. To this end, in 1996 we started the training of rapid deployment forces, in order to set up an operational unit to be employed in case of international crises. Its first elements are now working with KFOR. In Bosnia and Kosovo we have seen that the problems caused by the differences in language an culture, as well as those deriving from different materials and procedures, can be

overcome. It became also clear



ally. We stick to a credible national defence on our own.

In December 1999, in Helsinki, the European Council made an important step forward towards the institution of a European defence-architecture. What will be Finland's contribution to this structure?

Based on our population, the Finnish share in a European Force could consist of about 800 men, i.e. the strength of our battalion in

Above. Gunners in a training range.

Right.

An AMOS armoured car armed with a two-barrel gun.

Facing page.

An armoured personal carrier and some small warships.

that, by employing its men and equipment in Peacekeeping Operations, Finland not only does not lose anything but, on the contrary, its troops acquire a higher value for the defence of the Nation.

What is Finland's evaluation and perception of the Partnership for Peace Programme?

We believe that Partnership for Peace is a very important programme. PARP (Planning And Revision Programme) is a very effective guide for the forces earmarked for employment in crisis management operations. The participation in PfP improves our capability of military cooperation, strengthens our international status and enhances our operational readiness. In PfP. Finland makes its technical know-how available to other Countries and NATO, and participates in many seminars,

exercises, studies and working groups.

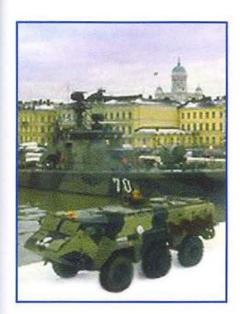
Are there still good reasons to remain neutral, after the changes occurred on the politico-strategic international scene?

"Neutral" is not the right word. After joining the European Union and the participation in many Peace Support operations, Finland can say that it is not neutral, but only against war and in favour of peace. We belong to the Western community and share its work and hopes. And this has been true for a long time.

Probably your question refers to the possibility of our Country joining NATO. We are essential component of the Western community, but not a military KFOR: this will be better specified during the actual subdivision of the forces within the EU. In practice, Finland's participation will be proportionate to our contribution to the UN and to PfP. This means, I believe, about 1500 men. I am sure that Finland will be capable of fulfilling its obligations.

Also the Nordic Cooperation is very important for us. At present, it aims mostly at crisis management, and I hope we shall be able to contribute a self-sufficient Brigade within "Nordic Frame".

Finland shares a very long border line with Russia. Does the Army cooperate with the police forces and the Frontier Guard in order to keep safe and stable this



border? Do you think this task, albeit not strictly military, could be one of the future missions of the Armed Forces?

The Police and the Frontier Guard are subordinate to the Ministry of the Interior. In wartime, the Frontier Guardsmen can be incorporated within the Armed Forces. Cooperation between the Army and these organizations is constant, but in peacetime we work under different commands and with different tasks. As a matter of fact the Army has a decidedly military role, even though it can carry out different types of missions if necessary.

What is the weight of the armoured and mechanized forces in your Army?

The Finnish territory is full of forests and lakes: what role do armoured combat and transport vehicles have in this kind of environment?

The armoured and mechanized forces continue to have an important role in the Army and are the spearhead of our defence. In particular, as regards the mechanized troops, I have already mentioned the "2005" Brigades.

As regards the second part of the question, it is still too early to give a definitive answer. Those systems will probably be partially replaced by combat helicopters, at least at Brigade and Corps level. The results of the relevant studies will be known by the end of 2010.

Your Army has a great tradition about operations on snowy and marshy terrain, with relatively small and highly trained units. What is the present situation and what is the future outlook for those special and elite forces?

We don't regard our arctic troops as "special forces", but only troops trained and equipped for operations in their normal environment. They can fight in the adverse conditions of weather and terrain which are typical of the whole Finnish territory.

In difficult scenarios like the northern one, logistics plays a fundamental role in guaranteeing a constant flow of supplies to the units. How will the new trends, such as extreme mobility in operations and growing sophistication of the systems, influence the logistic doctrine?

As a matter of fact, in the Arctic region logistics is more difficult than in other areas. Therefore our support units and the whole logistic chain are trained and equipped for operations in Lapland and other difficult regions of our Country. I can say that the Finnish Army has an excellent logistic organization, capable of operating in all situations.

* Journalist

Major General Ilkka Eemeli Kylä-Harakka was born in Loimaa on January 21, 1946.

From 1966 to 1969 he attended the Military Academy, and after his commission was assigned to the Pohjanmaa Artillery Regiment.

From 1974 to 1979 he attended the Artillery School and the War College and later served, until 1989, at the Army General Command.

Promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, he was appointed Director of the University Section of the Artillery School and of the Training Section fo the General Command.

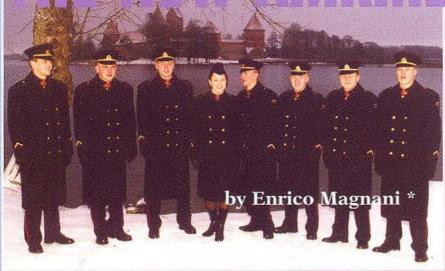
In 1992, with the rank of Colonel, he was appointed Principal Secretary of the Defence Council, and held this position until 1994, when, with the same rank, he assumed the command of a Brigade.

Promoted to Brigadier General in 1998, he held - in that order - the positions of Chief of Staff, Western Command and Chief, War Materials, at the Defence General Staff.

In 2001 he has been appointed Chief of Staff of the Army.

Maj.Gen. Ilkka Eemeli Kylä-Harakka is married and has two sons.

THE WANRIED FORGES



INTERVIEW WITH MAJOR GENERAL JONAS A. KRONKAITIS CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE ARMED FORCES

General, the Lithuanian Armed Forces are among the youngest in contemporary Europe. What were the decisive moments of the rebirth, after sixty years of oblivion?

The tragic events of WWII, and even more those preceding it, reduced our population by one third. A hard lesson has been learned but, from now on, if Lithuania's statehood is threatened again, we will defend

ourselves, with or without the support of our friends. The goal of our present defence policy is to prepare the society and the Armed Forces for general defence, and to integrate Lithuania into the Western defence structure. The physical, psychological, cultural and moral damage done by the Communist regime is hard to describe.

In 1998 we developed a reconstruction plan. We are creating Armed Forces based on a Western model, which can be



integrated into NATO and also function independently if we must defend ourselves. A Unified Command is being adopted, also in order to improve the interoperability with NATO structures and procedures. We also established a Territorial Defence Structure, which

Lithuania's Armed Forces are dealing with a difficult process of structural and operational rationalization, aimed at achieving full-fledged integrability within the Atlantic Alliance.

The participation in several peacesupport operations has already shown the Lithuanian Armed Forces' aptitude for joint operations, particularly as regards the land instrument.



provides a good framework for flexible defence and facilitates the integration of the National Volunteer Force. A Basic Training Centre has been constructed and became operational last April with the collaboration of Officers and NCOs from the United Kingdom, who have already trained 105 Lithuanian instructors. For three consecutive years, British Officers have instructed our cadets at the Military Academy. This year we took over completely, and this was a turning point in the training of our future Commanders. Many of our

Officers have graduated from US military schools, and presently we have four cadets at US Military Academies. Other Officers have attended French, German, Swedish, Danish and Estonian schools. All of our cadets are required to take English and may take French and



a strategic target for Lithuania. What was done to achieve full interoperability with NATO, and what remains to be done?

We have declared – and pursue – the political objective of becoming a full-fledged member of NATO. Our direct cooperation with NATO takes place within an enhanced and more operational "Partnership for Peace". We participate in the Lithuania - NATO Program and other initiatives coordinated by the Alliance. We were the second country to join the PfP in 1994, and believe that this programme is very important in preparing us for the obligations of NATO membership.

Above.Civilians and military socializing.

Right.
A convoy of BRDM-2.

German as a second foreign language. As regards NCOs, the US and UK the military have helped us to establish our NCO School. We must give our NCOs more authority and responsibility. Also to this purpose, I personally appoint the "Sergeant Major of the Armed Forces" who advises me on matters essential to this important segment of the Armed Forces.

The Collective training is conducted at the units and at the Advanced Training Centre, whose computerized sector has been created with the assistance of Denmark. The existing infrastructure has been improved, a strategic radio relay network and new military sites have been built. In particular, we focused on the development of proper "host nation support" capabilities, increasing our capability to receive, when required, allied reinforcements.

Lithuania fully understands that it must share the risks and burden of collective defence, and is ready to do it. Therefore, one of the three infantry battalions of the Rapid Reaction Brigade will be available for deployment for "Article 5" operations by the end of 2002. Today, we already contribute troops to SFOR and KFOR, and some of our transport aircraft, stationed in Naples, support NATO operations.

The full integration into the Euro-Atlantic security system is

Last year we participated in 23 exercises, such as "Allied Effort" and "Amber Hope".

For the past three years we conducted combat training, here in Lithuania, with about 900 troops from an Italian "Alpini" Brigade. They always performed with distinction, and also their off-duty conduct was admirable. They really won the hearts of the Lithuanian people.

The Lithuanian Armed Forces have already acquired a certain experience in Peace



Support Operations, providing units and equipment to several missions. Could you summarize these operations? What lessons have been learned?

Since 1994, the Lithuanian Armed Forces have served in several UN and NATO operations: in Croatia (UNPROFOR), Bosnia-Herzegovina (IFOR and SFOR), Albania (AFOR) and Kosovo (KFOR). Currently there is one motorized infantry platoon serving within KFOR One aircraft with a crew within KFOR/SFOR, and two Officers are with SFOR. In addition, on a rotation basis with Latvia and Estonia, we provide one company to the SFOR Danish battalion.

The service with NATO provides our soldiers with the skills and the experience essential for the development of interoperability. In fact, they get familiar with NATO command structures, know new types of equipment and weaponry and learn to deal with sensitive issues, like different cultural backgrounds and customs.

A military force does not consist of personnel and equipment only, but it includes also operational, training, logistic and administrative procedures.

On what bases and models did you build the rules and norms of your Armed Forces?

The Training and Doctrine coordinates the Command preparation of the military training programmes and tactical manuals, fixing also standards of soldier and unit training. All these programmes are carried out in accordance NATO regulations, publications and STANAGs. For example, all HQs and combat units use NATO Land Forces Tactical Doctrine (ATP-35(B)).

We also take into account the experience of other countries, as for example the United Kingdom. A British lieutenant colonel assigned to the Training and Doctrine Command will be replaced shortly by a German Officer. A German colonel and a Danish lieutenant colonel are assigned to our General Staff, assisting in Logistics and operational planning.

A US-Lithuanian joint exercise.

Do you have conscription in your Armed Forces? What is the role of professionals, longterm volunteers, reservists and female personnel?

Currently our Armed Forces consist of about 55% professional soldiers and 45% conscripts. Conscription is set in our Constitution. The training of conscripts lasts 12 months, after which they constitute the mobilization reserve and attend refresher courses. Conscription is important for a Country such as ours, which moved from a totalitarian form of government to democracy, because it maintains a closer relationship with society at large and builds a stronger national identity. Those who, because of their religion or pacifist beliefs. are not willing to serve in the Armed Forces, may ask for an alternative service, whose duration is 18 months.

We have no plans to abandon compulsory military service in the foreseeable future, since it is



The Flag Detail of a Lithuanian unit in a ceremony.

vital to ensure the effective functioning of the "Total and

Unconditional Defence" as well

as the territorial Defence.

Women have been serving in the Armed Forces since their reestablishment in 1990.

They are not subject to conscription, and presently form 17% of the Officers corps, 19% of the NCOs, 10% of privates and 52% of civilian personnel. There are women serving in combat units; however, most of them are employed in sectors such as accounting, personnel, logistics, aerospace surveillance and medical services. Following the provisions of a law on equal rights, women can now attend the Military Academy, where they

get the same training as men. Presently there are 23 women out of 505 cadets in our Military Academy.

Regional cooperation is a very important tool for the security policy of Lithuania. In particular, there are several ongoing common projects with Latvia and Estonia. Could you give us some details about them?

Our Country carries out extensive cooperation activities with the other two Baltic States. The most important projects are: Baltic Battalion (BALBAT); Baltic Squadron (BALTRON); Baltic Air Surveillance Network (BALTNET); Baltic Defence College (BALTDEFCOL).

BALTBAT was established in 1994, and in 2000 was declared ready for all types of peace support operations. It is equipped with NATO interoperable equipment and operates according to NATO doctrine and procedures. The next step will be the establishment of 3 battalions designated for rapid deployment in peace operations. They should be operational by the end of 2005.

Since 1997 Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, with the support of various western Countries, have been building a common naval squadron (BALTRON), which can participate in the naval component of international peace support operations.

The Baltic Defence College is in Tartu, Estonia. Its objective is to train Officers to assume battalion command or higher staff positions. Instructors and students come from several western countries, and the Commandant is an Officer from one of the Baltic Countries.

BALTNET is a Regional Air Surveillance Network, created by the three Baltic States and interoperable with NATO's air surveillance and defence system.

After the withdrawal of the Soviet troops, the Lithuanian Armed Forces inherited a number of bases, installation and training facilities. Has this infrastructure been used, and to what extent?

The Russians left very little infrastructure which would meet today's living and working requirements also because, in many cases, the facilities were run down and stripped of usable

Parade of a unit during a military ceremony.

items. In 1997 we decided to modernize them, giving priority to troop housing. Today our soldiers live in acceptable quarters. Next step will be to do the same with the remaining logistic infrastructure. 8.5% of the defence budget was allocated for the development of this sector.

What is the weight of military tradition in a Country that recently regained its independence? What is the role of the military in upholding common values? Are the Armed Forces an instrument of national and cultural cohesion?

Today's Armed Forces aim at being as transparent as possible towards society. The population knows our work, and the public participates in military ceremonies. It can be added that the Italian "Alpini" have made an important contribution, visiting various towns with their band and chorus, which were highly appreciated.

Furthermore, we carry out many cooperation activities with non-governmental organizations. Last year, for example, the Armed Forces organized 10 summer camps for teen-agers in every region of the Country. Over 1400 young soldiers, children from underprivileged families and youngsters with problems of different kinds, spent a few memorable days together.

The Armed Forces organize "Open Days", during which our citizens have an excellent opportunity to visit our Training Centres, the Military Academy and other Schools and units, in order to get more familiar with the soldiers and their daily routine. Military magazines, together with radio programs



and TV shows, contribute to a better knowledge of the present day Armed Forces, also in order to overcome the negative image left by the Soviet forces of occupation. The rise in popularity was very dramatic in the last four years: this is a sign of the growing affection and consideration for our soldiers.

Major General Jonas A. Kronkaitis was born in Lithuania, and served for 27 years with the US Army, reaching the rank of Colonel.

He attended several courses, including the War College, and held many high-responsibility positions, both at operational units and in the administrative sector. In particular, he commanded the Rock Island Arsenal, the largest armament manufacturing facility, were he carried out a vast and complex modernization programme. His foreign assignments included six years in Germany – with the 4th Armoured Group, 2nd Cavalry Regiment and 1st Armoured Division – and two years in Vietnam.

Maj Gen. Kroukaitis holds numerous decorations and awards, among which the Legion of Merit, 3 Bronze Stars, 3 Meritorius Service Medals, the Army Commendation Medal, the Air Medal and the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry w/Palm.

After retirement, he served as the Director of the Atlantic Research Corporation, which he left in February 1997, to return to Lithuania and assume the position of Vice Defence Minister.

On July 1, 1999, he assumed duties as Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces, and on August 13, 2001, was promoted Major General.

Major General Jonas A. Kronkaitis is married and has two children.

CATVA THE NEW ARMS



INTERVIEW WITH COLONEL RAIMONDS GRAUBE COMMANDER OF THE ARMED FORCES

Colonel, more than ten years after independence, what is the status of the Latvian Armed Forces? What are their priorities and what programmes are under way?

Within the framework of our policy of defence and security, the first priority was given to Latvia's full-fledged entry into the North Atlantic Alliance. As a consequence, the goal of our military policy is to shape Armed Forces that can increasingly integrate into the

Western mechanisms, in order to meet the expected requirements and standards.

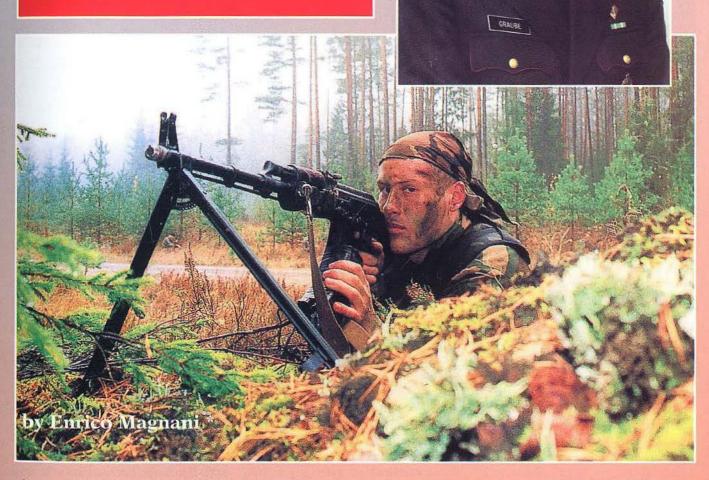
The programmes for the development of the forces are included in two plans (4 years and 12 years). It is important to underline that these plans concern both the reorganization of the structures affecting the preparation for the entry into NATO and the organization of civil support to the armed component.

In 2000, meanwhile, three important "partnership" objectives



have been attained. The first is the realization of an adequate structure of the Land Forces Command. The other two concern the Air Force, which acquired an identification system compatible with those of the Alliance and completed the studies for the improvement of Continuing with our interviews with the leaders of the Armed Forces of the Baltic Countries, we meet Colonel Raimonds Graube, Commander of the Latvian Armed Forces.

His answers give us a precise picture of the situation as well as of the effort being made in order to restructure the military instrument in view of the envisaged entry in the Atlantic Alliance.



the surface-air missiles. In 2001 we achieved nine more objectives.

So, as you said, your Country wants to become, a full-fledged member of NATO or, using an expression very popular nowadays, of the "Euro-Atlantic" security system. What is your opinion on "Partnership for Peace"? Can it be considered a good starting point in view of your objective?

Actually, the cooperation of

Latvia with NATO is centred on the "Membership Action Plan" (MAP) of PfP and on the Council of the Euro-Atlantic "partnership" (EAPC).

I believe that the PfP programme is essential for the global process being carried out with determination by our



A medical unit and a military-police detachment have been included in the British forces in Kosovo since February 2000.

Furthermore, we continue to assign observers to OSCE. Some have already been sent to Bosnia-Herzegovina and Northern Caucasus, for border control activities.

In April 2001 group of Latvian military observers was detached to Skopje for a period of six months, for participation in a control operation along the border between Kosovo and Macedonia.

Above.

Infantry platoons armed with 7.62x39 mm MPiKMS.

Right.

National Guardsmen, armed with AKM, controlling a road.

policy, of which it has become an integral part.

Precisely on the basis of the PfP experience our forces are acquiring the necessary readiness for a full integrability with NATO. Through its active participation in PfP, Latvia is getting ready to conduct NATO operations. In fact, our final objective is Latvia's participation in joint international operations. Such a strong and pragmatic Euroatlantic orientation and the achievement of the main objectives are very useful for the transparency of plans and budgets and the democratic management of the Armed Forces, as well as for the interventions in case of disasters or other emergencies.

That is why we want to be increasingly active in PfP, in all activites concerns planning, decision making and political consultation.

The participation in peace missions and in operations in response to crises (CRO) has been one of the first engagements of the "reborn" Latvian national Forces. Can you describe their engagement in these sectors?

The companies included in the "Baltic Battalion" (BALTBAT) operate within SFOR in Bosnia-Herzegovina, rotating every six months with similar Lithuanian and Estonian units. Shortly, another company will join the Danish Battalion.

At the present time, the following units are available for crisis-management operations: one reinforced company from the 1st Infantry Battalion (this units operates within IFOR and SFOR together with Swedish and Danish contingents); some units included in the Baltic Flotilla: one medical unit which in April/June 1999 participated in the AFOR mission and in February was attached to the British contingent in Kosovo; one Military Police unit (in Kosovo with KFOR) and one naval unit of fast patrol boats.



Above. Gunners in a firing exercise.

Right.

A Russian-made helicopter flying at low altitude.

Probably other elements will shortly be included in the Norwegian contingent. Besides, it should not be forgotten that Latvia, as a member of OSCE, participates in the observer missions in Georgia and Macedonia.

Latvia has adopted a "mixed model" based on volunteers, conscripts and on ample recourse to reservists. Do you plan to increase the number of volunteers? What are the role and size of the female component?

Our law provides that only Latvian citizens can be recruited. In peacetime the Armed Forces are constituted by: regulars, conscripts, National Guardsmen, civilian personnel and reservists on training. Volunteers, whatever their rank, must serve for at least five years. All male citizens are subject to a conscription duty total strength, subdivided as follows: 9% Officers, 23% NCOs, 26% privates, 42% civilians.

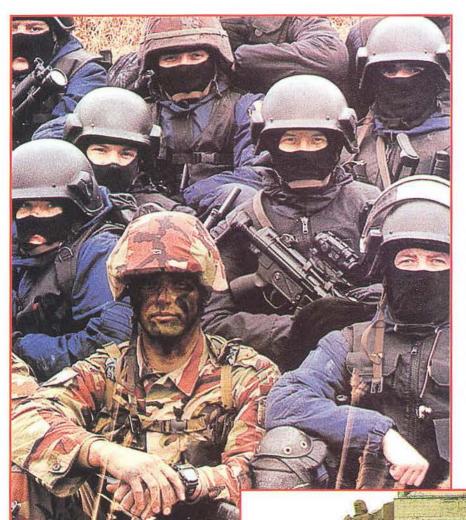


of 12 months. If they wish, the young recruits can ask to take up the military career. Women can enlist as volunteers, without any limitation on their employment, with both command/combat tasks and specialistic jobs (radio operators, nurses, etc.). At present, women in service are about 900, i.e. one fifth of the

We do not envisage an increase in the volunteer component.

What are Latvia's most important bilateral relations at the moment?

Our relations with the US are certainly outstanding. A rather large



Left.

Members of the Special Forces armed with HK MPS A3.

Below

BRIVIBAL

Independence Memorial, in Riga central square.

common activities, we improve our interoperability with NATO and optimize the employment of our resources. Just to mention the main projects in common with Estonia and Lithuania, it is sufficient to cite the BALTBAT Battalion; the BALTNET airsurveillance network: the BALTRON flotilla: BALTDEFCOL defence college, attended by Officers from NATO and from candidate Countries, as well as by civilian officials.

After the withdrawal of the Soviet troops, in your Country

group of American experts are assigned to our Ministry of Defence. They assist us in the sectors of personnel, security, information/communications, finance and logistics. Also the United Kingdom France and Canada are of great help to us in all sectors. In particular, many servicemen and civilians are attending English-language courses in the UK and Canada. Very important are also our contacts with the new NATO members: Poland, Czech Republic and Hungary.

Regional cooperation is very important for security. In particular, you are conducting several operational activities together with Estonia and Lithuania. Can you tell us something about these initiatives?

The cooperation among the Baltic States is really very important. Through these there are still several bases, installations and training areas formerly used by them. Do you still use them, and to what extent?

Only a small part of the large



Russian-made T-55 tank.

areas occupied by the Soviets for their bases and installations is still used for military purposes. All the rest is now municipal property. It should also be said that all the equipment was either destroyed or damaged before it was left behind. Only one of the five military airfields is used, and the Command of our Armed Forces is located in the building formerly used by the Soviet Military Region of the Baltic. We are also using some firing ranges, and are considering whether some buildings can still be restructured and modernized.

The new independent Latvia wants to become a full-fledged member of NATO, as you pointed out. How can this process be reconciled with the role of the military as a symbol of cohesion and a synthesis of the values of the nation?

The consensus of our citizens for the Armed Forces is growing all the time, together with the approval of a full participation in the Atlantic Alliance. The last survey was conducted in August 2001: the favourable voters were 67%.

We shall continue our activity of public information, in order to spread the knowledge about defence issues and the role of NATO, particularly as regards our citizens of Russian origin.

* Journalist

Colonel Raimonds Graube was born in Riga on February 26, 1957.

He served in the Soviet Army from 1976 to 1978, then worked in a factory of electronic equipment and at "Marupa", a collective farm.

In 1992, he attended a basic course at the National Guard Training Centre and in 1993, at the same Centre, attended several courses in the sectors of operations, training, planning and field tactics, organized by the US Army. The same year, he was promoted to Major.

From 1993 to 1995 he was Company Commander; Commander, Special Ops Unit; Commander, 1st Brigade, National Guard; Chief of Staff of the same unit. In the same period he attended a Brigade-level course on planning and administration, conducted in the US by the Michigan National Guard. In 1996 he was appointed Chief of Staff of the National Guard and attended the Netherlands Defence College.

Promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, from 1997 to 1998 attended the Joint Service Command and Staff College in the United Kingdom and in 1998 was appointed Commander of the National Guard.

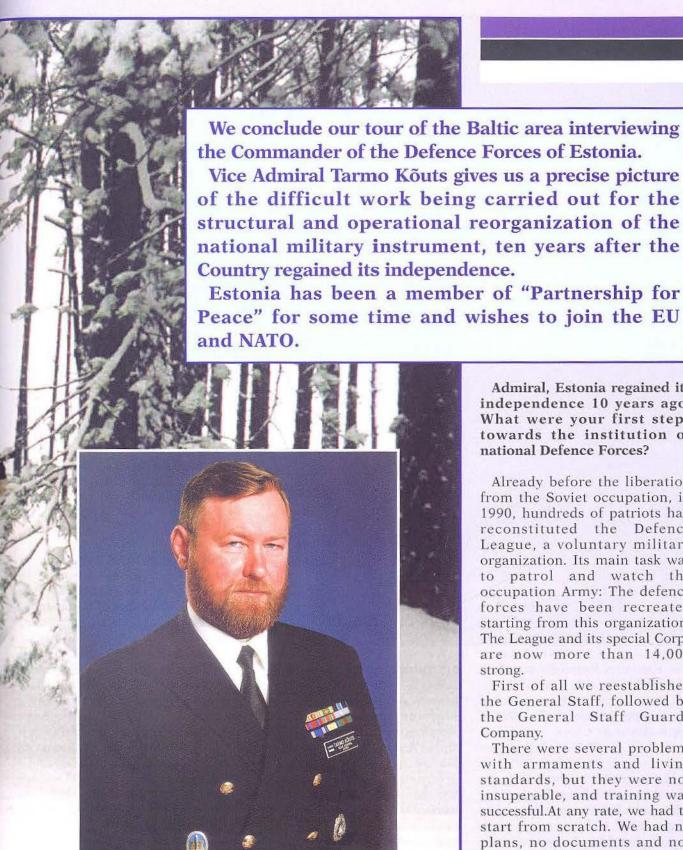
Promoted to Colonel in 1999, he became Commander of the National Armed Forces.

Colonel Raimonds Graube speaks fluent English and Russian, is married and has three children.

ESTORIA THE NEW ARMY

by Enrico Magnani *

Interview with Vice Admiral Tarmo Köuts Commander of the Defence Forces



Admiral, Estonia regained its independence 10 years ago. What were your first steps towards the institution of national Defence Forces?

Already before the liberation from the Soviet occupation, in 1990, hundreds of patriots had reconstituted the Defence League, a voluntary military organization. Its main task was to patrol and watch the occupation Army: The defence forces have been recreated starting from this organization. The League and its special Corps are now more than 14,000

First of all we reestablished the General Staff, followed by the General Staff Guards

There were several problems with armaments and living standards, but they were not insuperable, and training was successful.At any rate, we had to start from scratch. We had no plans, no documents and not enough qualified personnel.

At the beginning we established three infantry battalions: "Kalev" in the north, "Viru" in the northeast and "Kuperjanov" in the



BTR 60 armoured vehicle.

south. But our first objective was the union of all defence forces within a single and working system. This is, in fact, the most important factor in case of mobilization.

The majority of the battalions were named after units which existed before the Soviet occupation of 1940-41. Actually the Estonian Republic was first established in 1918, and almost all battalions were constituted during the Independence War of 1918-20.

Ten years are a short time for developing a defence force. What objectives have been achieved so far, and what are your programmes for the future?

As I said, we started reconstructing our Armed Forces from scratch. As of today, we have rather good armaments and

a conscription system that works. The number of highly trained Officers is growing from year to year. Also, we started a good military cooperation with many countries.

Naturally, we shall continue on this course. Estonia will continue to be present in the UN-led peacekeeping operations and in the UN observer missions in Lebanon.

We will maintain the conscription system and the reservist Army, but will have to make some reforms. The General Staff and those of the three Services will be assembled in a single Staff. Seven battalion-level "Recruit Training Centres" will operate regularly in peacetime. By the end of 2006, several territorial -defence units will be established on the basis of the Defence League, together with a "Special District for Northern Defence", protected by a reservist Brigade. The Navy will continue its mineclearing activity, and the Air Force will go on with the development of the surveillance of the airspace and the defence of strategic objectives.

What were the steps taken by the Defence Forces in order to join the EU and NATO? What is your opinion about "Partnership for Peace"?

Every institution of our government pursues its specific objectives with the aim of preparing Estonia to become a member of the EU. We have already submitted our proposals to the Union on 29 chapters out of 31. As a member of MAP (Membership Action Plan) we qualify for NATO membership. Also we avail ourselves of the ANP (Annual National Plan), a leading project in preparation for membership. Furthermore, Estonia takes an active part in peace operations. Right now, one of our companies is in Bosnia and Kosovo. A

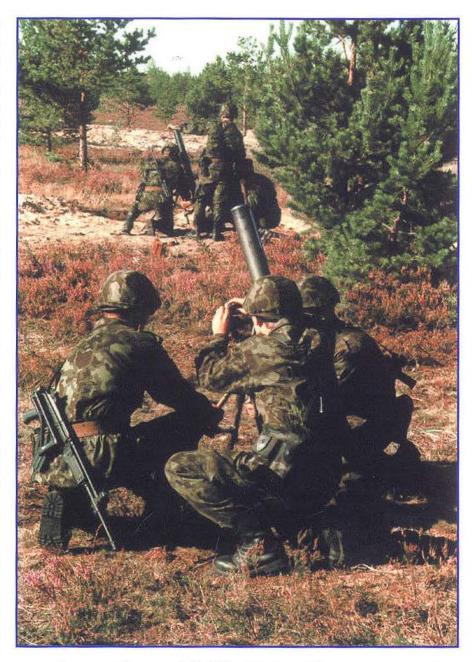
military police team is part of "Special the Italian-led Multinational Unit" of KFOR: We also have a military obsever in Lebanon. The PfP programme been verv useful. has Cooperation helps us to improve our defence capabilities and to harmonize them with the NATO norms and procedures. especially with the introduction of the "Partnership Objectives". At the beginning of 2000, Estonia agreed with NATO on 62 objectives; most of them were related to MAP, therefore closely connected with the MAP/ANP objectives.

The Defence Forces have actively participated in many Peace Support Operations. Can you tell us what were the lessons learned?

The "Peace Operations Centre" was established in 1994, with the aim of training our units and supporting the cooperation among Baltic states within BALTBAT (Baltic Battalion).

Last year we constituted ESTBAT, to support our growing participation in peace operations. The employment of our troops in international contingents is not a political measure only, but also a good opportunity to evaluate the interoperability of the units and their training level. Between 1995 and 2001, more than 700 servicemen (77 of them Officers, about 15% of those on active duty) have taken part in multinational operations. I believe that the experience gained by them concerns mainly the acquisition of the knowledge of international procedures and the capabilities necessary in order to work together with our partners.

What are the bases of your military regulations and



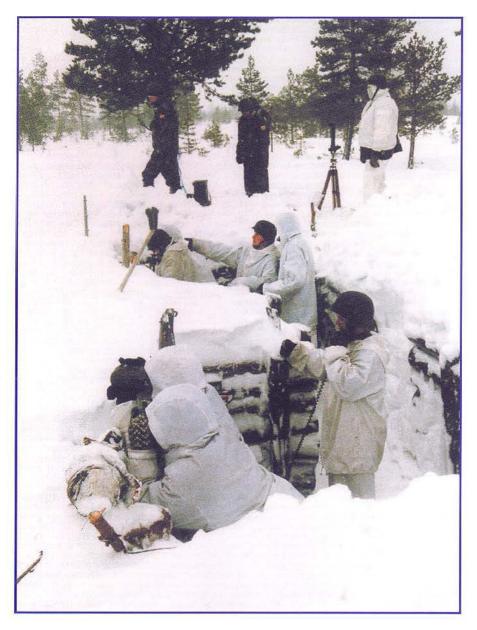
procedures? What model did you follow?

The Defence Forces are the bearers of the traditions of the Armed Forces constituted before the Soviet occupation of 1940. In 1991 we have taken almost all norms from those regulations, adapting them to the present time. Of course, we have changed many rules in order to update them, but the basic ones remained. Many procedures also come from regulations in force within NATO and the Finnish Army.

Training with mortars.

The Estonian Defence Forces are based on conscription. Do you also have a professional Army and reservist units? Why did you take that decision? Are there changes in view? What are the duties performed by women within the military?

Our Defence Forces are basically reserve forces. Military service is compulsory for all male citizens physically and



mentally healthy, between 18 and 27 years of age. The duty lasts from eight to eleven months, according to the speciality. Thereafter the recruits are assigned to the reserve of their unit. The reserve force is the most profitable system for a small country like Estonia. The cost of the Armed Forces based on conscription is lower, therefore maintaining the defence capability is easier. The professional servicemen are tasked with the training of recruits, maintenance of the operational capability peacetime and development of the cooperation objectives within

NATO. Women work in the same positions as men and many of them are Officers and NCOs.

How do you cooperate with the NATO and PfP Countries?

Estonia has entered into bilateral cooperation agreements with 14 NATO Countries, and bilateral or trilateral accords with 6 partner Nations of the Alliance. The bilateral agreements aim at preparing our Country for its future NATO membership.

Training and instruction are the preponderant part of the general

Tactical Command-Post during a winter exercise. The Fritz/Passgt helmets have just been acquired by the Estonian Army.

activities of bilateral cooperation. But the logistic areas are included in this cooperation as well.

Regional cooperation is very important for the defence of the Nation. What kind of collaboration is under way with the other Baltic States?

Estonia is carrying out four cooperation programmes with Latvia and Lithuania:

- BALTBAT (Baltic Battalion) was created as a catalyst to improve the technical level as well as to show the Balcan countries' will and capability to cooperate, both among themselves and in multinational environments. Some BALTBAT units participate in the IFOR/SFOR operations in Bosnia-Herzegovina. At the same time, the battalion supports the Defence national Forces. contributing their to development.
- BALTRON (Baltic Naval Squadron) contributed to the development of our Navy. Its main task is mineclearing. There are tens of thousands of mines in the Baltic, a heritage from the first and second worldwars. BALTRON's objective is to find and destroy them, in order to clear the routes.
- BALTNET: its objective is to improve international cooperation between civilian and military authorities in the field of aeronautics, increasing the operational efficiency of the three Nations. The project is a combination of the efforts of many Countries for developing the surveillance of the air space and traffic in Central and Eastern Europe.

Servicemen of the Estonian National Guard on training in a swampy area.

 BALTDEFCOL (Baltic Defence College) is the first joint military institution for high studies, and aims at creating a common culture for the Officers of the three Services. The College organizes an annual Staff Course for Officers from the Baltic States. In the future there will be courses for civilian employees as well.

The Soviet Army left many structures in the Baltic Countries. Do you use them, and how?

When they withdrew, the Soviet destroyed most bases on our



territory, and many buildings were in very bad conditions. However, many structures were reutilized and the majority of our battalions are now occupying those buildings and using those firing ranges. An example is the airport built by the Soviets at Amari, now used by our Defence Forces as an air base. The huge problem that still remains to be tackled is how to dispose of the immense amount of trash left behind by the Red Army.

Vice Admiral Tarmo Kõuts was born in the island of Sarena, Estonia, on November 27, 1954.

A graduate from the Naval Department of the Maritime

A graduate from the Naval Department of the Maritime College in Tallin, in 1985 he attended the Navigation Course at Kaliningrad Technical Institute.

From 1973 to 1990 he served, as Captain and Instructor, on several ships of the Estonian Naval Company.

From 1990 to 1993 he was the Commandant of the Military Academy, where he introduced university-level studies in Estonian.

In 1993 he was appointed Director General of the Border Guard, becoming an advocate of its rapid development. In a short time, the Guard earned international consideration as an efficient, reliable and skilled professional structure.

In 1999 Adm. Kõuts attended a special course at the Finnish National Academy.

On September 21, 2000 the Parliament of the Estonian Republic appointed him Commander of the Defence Forces. On February 20, 2002 he was promoted to the rank of Vice Admiral.

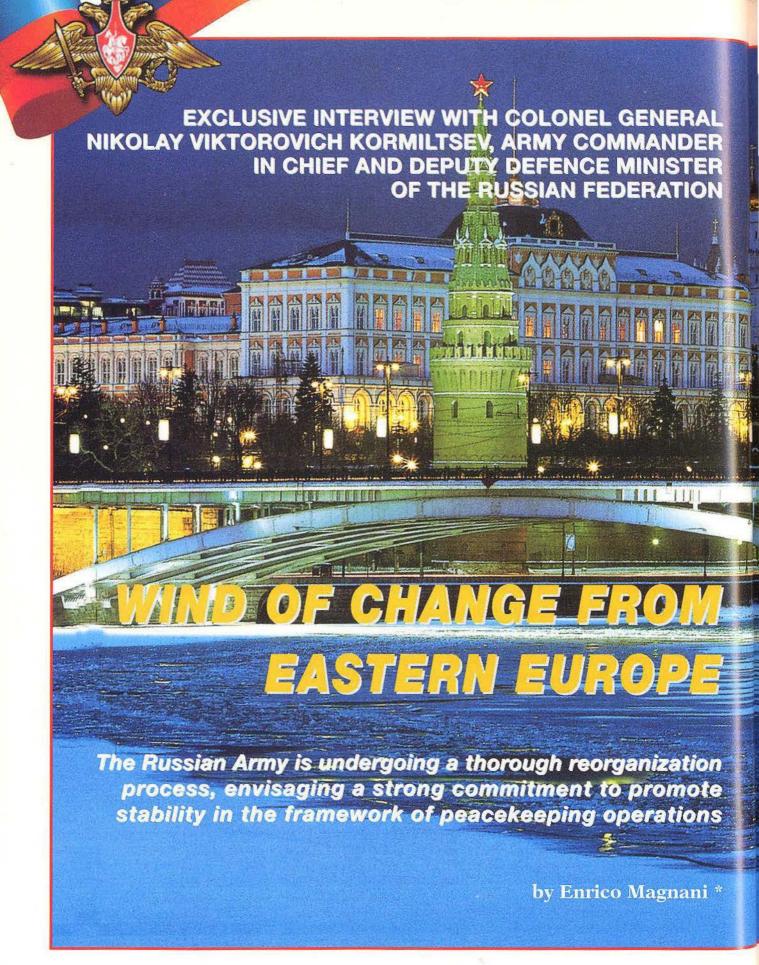
Vice Admiral Tarmo Kõuts holds the following decorations and awards:

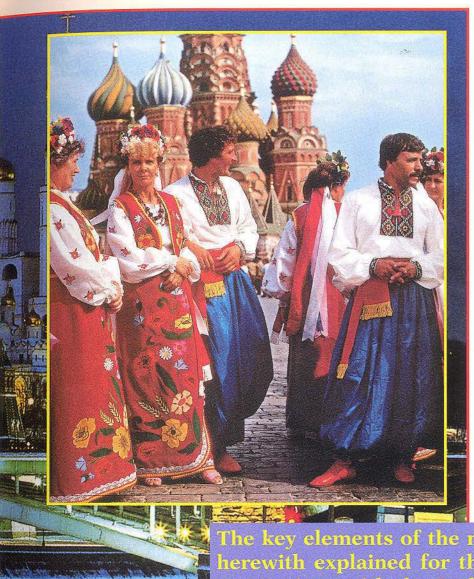
- · Order of the Eagle Cross, 2nd class;
- · Order of Merit of the Defence Forces;
- · White Cross of the Defence League, 3rd class;
- Cross of Merit of the Border Guard, 1st class;
- Cross of Merit of the Border Guard of Finland;
- · Cross of Merit of the Border Guard of Latvia.

Are military traditions strong in your Country? Does civil society support the Defence Forces?

The citizens of Estonia have great confidence in the Defence Forces. According to the last survey, 74% of the male population would resist and protect their Country in case of external attack. The Defence Forces are one of the institutions most respected by the citizens (59%), after the President of the Republic (67%) and the Border Guard (67%). Six citizens out of ten are in favour of Estonia joining NATO.

* Journalist





General, how is the Army reorganization getting on? Is there a connection with the restructuring of the other forces in your country?

The Army reorganization is getting on well. The aim is that of setting up a military instrument adequate to carry out the assigned tasks, as well as building a force equipped with a large number of mobile and combat-ready forces, effectively organized and manned.

I think that we will shortly meet this target. To date, major changes have been carried out in the structure and personnel sectors.

In the year 2001 only, over 1,000 new organizational provisions were adopted, i.e an Army Supreme Command was set up; the Privolzhskiy and Ural Military Districts were unified; a more streamlined structure was created, relying on a reduced number of Army large units and elements. Notwithstanding this overall troop reduction, there was an increase in the number of large units and formations which were

The key elements of the new Russian Army are herewith explained for the first time: reforms, connections with the Red Army, military policy guidelines, functions of land forces in the third millennium, fight against terrorism, nuclear strategy, relations with former Soviet Republics, engagement in peace-keeping missions, Caucasus strategic position, future role of large armoured and mechanized units, present employment of Special Forces, recruitment of professional personnel, importance of the female component and Russian military values. These and other subjects are analyzed in detail by the Land Forces Commander of an old and prestigious country.



combat-ready without applying wartime procedures.

Given the results obtained so far, we hope that most of the planned structural changes will be implemented in one or two years.

In this connection, I would like to recall that enhancing troops' capabilities and combat readiness is among the Army's most important objectives. Therefore, priority one should be given to attain personnel's better qualitative and quantitative standards.

A radical and most appropriate solution is to man units with NCOs and troops recruited on a voluntary basis.

This will be a long, complex and costly process, but there is no other choice. Preliminary steps have already been taken in the legislative, experimentation and social sectors, by increasing the prestige of the military and enhancing their living conditions at material, cultural and social levels.

Equipment, technology and armaments are other important elements to improve the Army's combat power. To this end, besides updating, repairing and replenishing its existing fleet, the Army

is developing models to completely renew its arsenal. Automated Command and Communication systems, mainly at tactical group level, are most required, together with reconnaissance equipment, precision weaponry, attack helicopters, and anti-tank missile systems.

Personnel training, both at individual and unit level, is given great importance in order to boost the Army's combat power.

In fact, it is very important to improve the professional level of Officers and NCOs performing basic command functions, as well as enhance their educational capabilities.

To maximise the use of resources allocated to the training of troops, a constant effort is being made to fully exploit the technical equipment used during exercises. New combat techniques are developed, which take into account the lessons drawn from the fight against international terrorism in a wide range of geographical environments and weather conditions. Joint operations are also carried out with other armed forces or with special military units belonging to the Ministries of Defence, Interior



and Security. Particular emphasis has been placed on mobilizing the reserve component, establishing an infrastructure to meet all Army requirements, developing highly qualified officers and lower rank specialists and enhancing logistic units.

In future wars and especially in the fight against international terrorism, joint actions will be increasingly required, with the participation of the Ministries of Defense, Interior and Security. In fact, a wide range of highly demanding tasks are to be carried out jointly. The Army's interaction

Left. "Ka" 50 fire support helicopter.

Right.

View of the city of St. Petersburg, also known as "the Venice of the North".

Below.

"Tunguska" a/a self-propelled gun.

with the Air Force is particularly important, as that with the Navy in coastal areas.

Therefore it stands to reason that the issues relating to the



Army reorganization should be connected to those of the other Armed Forces.

First of all, the command structure will be reformed. Military Districts (1) have been given the status of operational-strategic commands to exercise their authority over large units and other elements deployed in their area of responsibility. We will make an effort to connect all automated command and communication systems to the several levels of the chain of command.

The structural changes carried out in the other Services (the

establishment of new Air Force groups, air defense systems, airborne forces, naval forces) have been tailored to the operational requirements of Army's large units, so as to ensure them an adequate support. Other reform measures have been taken to unify military means and equipment, as well as enhance both the infrastructure and technical and logistical systems. Joint measures have been carefully planned and implemented for the preparation of units.

This way, we will be able to execute our plans and promptly

employ our forces, when an emergency response is required.

Speaking of the Russian Army, we cannot but recall the Red Army. Is today's Army still connected to the past and when did it first break with it?

In my opinion, there was not a real break with the past. Today's Army was not born from scratch, but is the offspring of the Soviet Army which, in turn, inherited the traditions of the Red Army in 1946. Today, it enrolls the children and grandchildren of those who fought during the 1941-45 Great Patriotic War to defend our country's honour and independence and free peoples from fascism.

We still remember the courage, heroism and sacrifice of those soldiers, who have become role models for the youth who are presently serving their country.

The strength of the Red Army was based on its high moral values and glorious traditions. Those tenets were strictly linked to the pre-revolutionary experience, spanning from the great march of Svyatoslav, the Prince of Kyiv, to the successful battles of Aleksandr Nevskij, to the fight against the Mongolian-Tartar

invasion, to Suvorov's work "The science of winning", to the patriotic war in 1812 and to other glorious pages in the history of our country.

The Russian Army has profited from the achievements of the Red Army and still keeps its war flags, as a symbol of honor, gallantry and glory, and oldest traditions. To give an example of Russian soldiers' heroism and courage, we may recall their fight against internal and international terrorism in the Northern Caucasus and the peacekeeping missions carried out in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and other countries. Concepts such as patriotism, honour, gallantry, courage, bravery, sacrifice, solidarity, relief in combat, capability of enduring dire hardship, treating defeated enemies humanely are deeply ingrained in today's Army.

The Red Army fought long and bloody battles against the Nazi Army, a strong enemy at that time, and showed the clear superiority of its armaments, technical means, organization and military craftsmanship. The experience gained by the Red Army in combat was so unique and wide-ranging that it can be useful even today, to carry out the present reorganization, as well as military training and tasks. Its guidelines are not followed verbatim, but adapted to the present situation, characterized by modern warfighting equipment, new political and military scenarios and new developments in military concepts and actions.

The Army has substantially changed from the times of the Red Army. During the period of the Great Patriotic, War Russian soldiers covered the distance between Moscow and Berlin on foot. Today the Army is equipped with modern and sophisticated weapons, considered as the best in the world. The warmaking, mobilization and maneuver capabilities have been greatly developed, as well as personnel's exper-

tise, cultural background, professional skills, moral and psychological qualities.

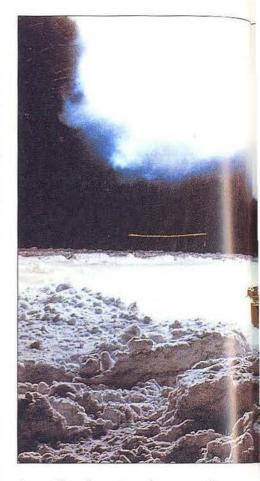
Another key element characterizing today's Army is the prohibition for the military to join political parties and politically oriented associations. The Armed Forces are called upon to avert external attacks and defend the integrity and inviolability of the Federation's territory, thus acting in the interest of the whole country and not of single social groups only.

In August 1998 the Government issued a framework document stating the guidelines of the Federation's military policy up to 2005. In line with that directive, what is the Army's role?

The guidelines of the Federation's military policy are illustrated by the Concept of National Security and Military Doctrine ratified by the President of the Federation in 2000. Based on those documents, the Armed Forces are key to the military security of our nation. Most tasks are assigned to the Army, given our geographical position and territorial extension, exceeding 22,500 km.

One can appreciate the Army's role and importance in guaranteeing the military security of our nation through the study of our military history. In fact, the Army has always been the cornerstone of the Russian Armed Forces and was crucial in defeating the Nazi Army during the Great Patriotic War.

Moreover, the Army plays a very important role and is the backbone of our strategic forces. Thanks to its multi-functional and versatile capabilities, it takes the lead in averting possible enemy attacks or defending our territorial integrity and national interests, as well as repelling attackers and identifying and defusing armed conflicts fought along the borders.



An artillery battery carries out a live exercise.

The Army is also responsible for carrying out a wide range of territorial defense tasks, including the enforcement of the martial law, the training, preparation and deployment of strategic reserve forces.

Today, the role played by the Army has gained increased importance, as traditional attacks waged by hostile countries have become less threatening than conflicts of different intensity. mainly linked to international terrorism and other type of extremist actions. A case in point were the counter-terrorism operations carried out in the Northern Caucasus, where Army units were pivotal in combating large armed gangs. During armed conflicts, the Army is called upon to identify and curb regional uprisings, detect and disband outlawed



and terrorists, as well as destroy their headquarters, training grounds, warehouses and communication networks. It is also tasked to guarantee the rule of law in emergency situations and defend the national heritage.

The Army's important role is also highlighted by its implementation of Russia's international engagements and participation in peace-keeping missions.

In fact, since 2001, peace-keeping missions have been solely entrusted to the Army. Personnel are engaged in the difficult task of separating the warring factions and guaranteeing the safety of civilians living in Abkhazia and in the Southern Ossetia region in Georgia, in the Pridnestrovie region in Moldavia (former Yugoslavia) and in other parts of the world, to create the preconditions for a political solution of conflicts.

Therefore, the Army plays a key role in guaranteeing our country's

military security. Although it makes up only 40% of the Armed Forces' overall strength, the professionalism of its personnel, as well the structure, combat readiness and warfighting power of its divisions and units allow for countering all threats to our national interests.

Nuclear weapons had a specific role and function in the Soviet Army, as their use was envisaged in the planning and conduct of both defensive and offensive operations. Has the Army modified its concepts on the use of nuclear weapons?

The Federation considers nuclear weapons as a security guarantee and a deterrent against possible attacks to the nation and its allies.

However, nuclear weapons are not the only means to pose a deterrent threat or repel an attack. In fact, based on the new wording of the Concept of National Security, as ratified by the Presidential Decree of January 2000, today Russia can employ any means or force in its possession, nuclear weapons included, to repel an armed attack, only when all other measures have turned out to be ineffective to settle a crisis.

Nuclear systems and forces at tactical and tactical-operational levels have always played a major role in the Russian policy of nuclear balance. While in the past the role of tactical and tactical-operational weapons was mainly that of amplifying the power of traditional forces, now their political-military function is integrated into a general system and has become more similar to that of strategic nuclear weapons.

Today, the resort to the use of tactical nuclear weapons is a responsibility of our country's higher political authority, in a contingency. Only at a later stage, nuclear attacks are planned and carried out.

However, new measures have been taken in this sector to enhance security levels and rule out a possible unintended use of those weapons.

As regards the Russian security policy, the stability of the former Soviet Republics is very important. What are the connections between the Russian Army and those of the Republics? Will these historical ties be further strengthened?

The Armed Forces of the former Soviet Republics, today belonging to the Commonwealth of cess which now is mainly linked to the protection of their mutual interests.

Military cooperation is multifaceted, i.e. there is unrestricted cooperation mainly in the sectors of peacekeeping and border and air space defense.

Nations are also cooperating within the framework of the *Treaty on Collective Security*. The Treaty is aimed at enhancing regional security, based on bilateral agreements dealing with issues of particular importance, as regards military infrastructure and security guarantees. A particularly important achievement





independent States (CIS), were born from the territorial breakup of the Soviet Army, which was once a powerful and unified military instrument.

Consequently, as these states exert their authority over the same territory and share military means and armaments, military security programs, force structures, as well as troop training and deployment systems, it would be impossible for them not to keep strong cooperation ties in the military sector.

Collaboration among CIS nations has been a gradual pro-

has been obtained in the sector of military security cooperation, when a single air defense system has been established for all CIS nations. This system allows nations to defend their airspace boundaries, jointly control the use of their airspace, have a centralized airspace information system and a unified command of air defense forces and means, in case of an attack.

There is wide cooperation at technical-military level, which also encompasses coordinated industrial plans and programs, mutual maintenance and supply of weapons and military equipment, development of scientific research and development, coordinated procurement of material and technical resources and joint modernization of military assets. This cooperation has boosted the mass production of military equipment, lowered production costs and eased the access to CIS nations' markets.

Another important aspect of cooperation is the further development of peacekeeping activities aimed at defusing armed conflicts broken out within CIS nations. This is a basic precondi-



Above.

"BTR-80" transport and attack armoured vehicle in service with motorized infantry units.

Left. "Mi-28A N" attack helicopter.

tion to guarantee regional security and stability. Thus, the joint intervention of CIS peacekeeping forces succeeded in stopping the civil war in Tajikistan and laying the foundation for a political solution to the strife between Abkhazia and Georgia. Peacekeeping operations have taught us how important it is to equip the Armed Forces of CIS nations with units specialized in these types of missions.

A further development of our cooperation effort in the peacekeeping sector will allow us to set up and train joint units with special tasks.

The fight against international terrorism has recently become one of the main causes for concern.

To fight terrorist organizations, there is the need for a mutual exchange of information

about their composition, numbers, location and types of actions. Moreover, a cooperation effort is required to set up, train and equip counter-terrorism units with the most advanced weapon systems, munitions and military means to jointly carry out special operations in the future. The Russian Army actively supports the Armed Forces of other CIS nations in organizing and modernizing their national forces, developing their military leadership, implementing joint measures to train units to carry out operational and military tasks, coordinating the territorial allocation of military assets and establishing common guidelines to set up an replenish stocks of means and materials.

I think that our relations in the military sector are based on a sound foundation which can be further enlarged in the future. This is mainly possible because integration in the military sector does not endanger the sovereignty of CIS nations, but allows them to cut costs and establish new political and economic ties.

Thanks to military cooperation, nations are better geared to effec-

tively counter all types of challenges, risks and threats, while European and Asiatic regions are further stabilized.

The Caucasus region has resumed its strategic role of crossroads between Europe, South-West Asia and the Middle East. Could you explain the Army's role within the activities carried out by the CIS to stabilize the Caucasus region?

The geopolitical features of the Caucasus have a particular bearing on the present socio-political situation of the region and its development trends. In fact, the Caucasus has always been a geographical linchpin between Asia and Europe. Some countries considered the collapse of the Soviet Union and the emergence of new sovereign states in the Trans-Caucasus as a historical opportunity to extend their power over that region and weaken the Russian grip on the area.

There are other important factors which affect the situation in the region, such as historical disputes of economic, social, religious and inter-ethnic nature and territorial claims among the various populations residing in that area. The rash initiatives taken by some politicians exacerbate these rivalries at times and create flash points of instability which may blow up at any time.

These initiatives, stemming from Russia's weakened grip on the Trans-Caucasus region after the collapse of the Soviet Union, have brought about several armed conflicts which have disrupted the stability of the area. The conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan over Nagorno Karabakh, which has lasted for ten years, is one of them. Other disputes are fuelled by nationalist tendencies in the Georgian regions of Abkhazia and Southern Ossetia.



Russian personnel serving in the peacekeeping mission in Tajikistan.

CIS nations' and Russia's political authorities made every effort to curb the conflicts in those regions and bring the warring parties to the negotiating table.

The Russian Army played a pivotal role in quelling the controversies in Georgia and restoring peace and stability. In fact, the Army is mandated by the CIS to prevent conflicts from escalating and guarantee the safety of the civilian population.

But the complete stabilization of the region solely depends on warring parties' willingness and resolve.

The situation in the Northern Caucasus is different. Here the theory that the Chechen people are fighting for their national independence has proved to be groundless. In fact, if that was the case, from 1996 to 1999 a local leadership could have been established, with the political support of Russia, and international-

ly recognized. But nothing of the sort happened. The Chechen territory has become the stronghold of international terrorism, from which to attack Russia, and, a fertile breeding ground Wahabist theories. Wahabism is a very active, aggressive and radical movement within Islamic fundamentalism Mercenaries, religious zealots, as well as flows of weapons and drugs have poured into that region from all over the world. Slave trafficking is widespread in the area. Hundreds of people have disappeared without trace or have been cruelly tortured.

This situation was compounded by the onslaught of armed terrorists in nearby Daghestan and bomb attacks against civilian buildings in Moscow, Volgodonsk and Buynaksk., where innocent people were ruthlessly killed.

No country in the world could have left these actions unpunished.

It should be noted that terrorist gangs, well organized and equipped with last generation weapons, carry out professional, cruel and unpredictable actions. As things stand, it would have been impossible for law enforcement forces alone to have the upper hand on terrorists.

Therefore, the Army initially gave fundamental support to these operations. In fact, thanks to its structure and capabilities. the Army is a multi-functional and versatile force, capable of carrying out all combat tasks anywhere, against any enemy and under any condition. Besides disbanding armed gangs, the Army was tasked with monitoring and defending key positions, setting up road blocks and checkpoints, protecting and escorting convoys, as well as guaranteeing the rule of law and enforcing other provisions.

When those gangs were finally defeated, many tasks were handed over to the Police, law enforcement and federal security forces. As a consequence, the number of large units was considerably downsized, together with those elements directly involved in operations.

At present, powerful criminal



Russian tank unit in action.

organizations are no longer present in Chechnya, but there are only small groups made up of 5-10 members and few cells with up to 50 people. They mine roadways, carry out armed robberies at night and go back home at dawn just like innocent citizens.

Therefore, law representatives, special authorities tasked with finding and apprehending criminals, together with Armed Forces' special units, are to be particularly efficient. The Army has deployed one large unit in the area and a number of special elements.

It is worthwhile recalling that as militia forces' bases and hideouts were destroyed and the flows of weapons and munitions from abroad were disrupted, terrorists' material supplies and actions were greatly reduced and all attempts to unify their forces under a single command failed.

Concurrently, the authorities of nearby Georgia have identified terrorists' bases and staging areas on their territory, precisely in the Pankissi gorge, and are determined to destroy them.

As a consequence, the Chechen people are increasingly convinced that things would be better if terrorist actions stopped. They are tired of war. In the next few years there will be a huge effort to restore normal conditions, by apprehending criminals still at large, restoring the rule of law and reviving the economy and social institutions.

The objectives set by the CFE (Conventional forces in Europe) Treaty have been met. Has the Army encountered any problems in destroying so many tanks, infantry combat vehicles, artillery pieces and helicopters, as envisaged by that Treaty?

It is important to keep in mind that the CFE Treaty was signed in 1990 and before that date there had been a long preparation and coordination work, which lasted many years. That Treaty radically changed the deployment of forces in Europe. Neither the Organization of the Warsaw Pact nor the Soviet Union exist any longer, while the CFE nations shifted from 22 to 30 and grouped with the former Soviet Republics. Many Eastern European countries have already become NATO members, or have applied for membership in that military organization which continues to expand eastward.

As regards the CFE Treaty, establishing the Army's disarmament levels, I can assure you that we did not encounter any problems. This was due to the fact that when the Treaty was signed, the Russian Federation's Military Doctrine had already charted a defensive course, envisaging a drawdown of conventional forces. The risks of large armed conflicts involving the Federation had also receded.

Actually, we encountered some difficulties in meeting the terms of the CFE Treaty regarding residual flank limits, which did not



take into account the new politico-military situation.

When a crisis broke out in the Northern Caucasus, the Federation did not have sufficient stocks of armaments and combat systems in place to rapidly and effectively neutralize the armed conflict.

The transfer of large units and military elements deployed in other parts of the Russian territory to that region was very costly and partially contravened the terms of the Treaty.

Now things have returned to normality and surplus military assets and armaments have been withdrawn. However, we cannot rule out the possibility that a situation reoccurs or that a new crisis breaks out in another area.

Moreover, a maintenance centre specialized in armoured vehicles has been deployed to the region.

The tanks and armoured combat vehicles which are serviced in that workshop, as well as those in a good state of repair, even if organically assigned to other units, are counted in the armament aggregate levels of that

region. This creates some difficulties in the rigorous implementation of the terms of the CFE Treaty.

An "Adapted" CFE Treaty is under study, which will hopefully reconsider present situation and solve present problems. Based on that agreement, conventional armament levels in Europe should be further reduced. Russia will not have any problems in implementing the "Adapted" Treaty, as the established armament and combat vehicle level has almost been reached.

According to some military experts, high-intensity operations are extremely unlikely at present. Therefore, what role will large heavy units play in the future?

I think it is too early to say that the role and functions of large heavy units will be less and less important in future armed conflicts. The supporters of this theory maintain that modern anti-tank weapons will easily outdo traditional tanks in combat. A weapon capable of piercing an armour plate over 1 meter thick already exists. Large numbers of light and portable a/t weapons have recently been fielded, which cannot be easily detected and destroyed. Therefore, some experts think that both tanks and other armoured vehicles are no more invincible and that their wide employment in the battlefield will be ineffective, mainly in

Left. "Alexius II", Chief of the Orthodox Church, attends a ceremony.

Below.

Troops of the pontoon engineers corps.

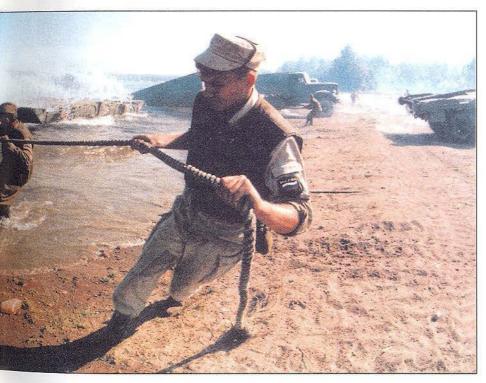
closed areas.

In my opinion, these views are unsubstantiated. The production of tanks at worldwide level proves that it is not yet clear whether the "shield" or the sword" will have the last word. New types of tanks have already been designed and defense systems are being refined with add-on ballistic protection and new materials.

Active defense systems are also

large armoured and mechanized units have also been enlarged, as these forces can rely on increased coverage by other troops or means. In particular, the basic concepts for the use of combat vehicles in the tank support role are being developed. They feature an add-on armour and can support tanks or destroy enemy antitank vehicles.

Another theory seems rather far-fetched, according to which large "heavy" units are unfit to operate in closed and inaccessible areas, where conflicts of different nature are most likely to take place at present. It solely depends on whether they are used in a flexible way or not. In fact, tanks, infantry armoured vehicles



employed, which can destroy missiles and a/t ammunition along their midcourse phases and an enhanced dynamic defense system will be shortly operational. Moreover, night vision sighting equipment, as well as communication, reconnaissance and firing systems are being updated, while maneuver and advance capabilities are being enhanced.

The employment options of

and personnel carriers are multirole equipment and can be used in the fire and support role to combat in built-up areas, break through reinforced areas and carry out mountains operations. In case of a breakthrough in a main line of defense on open ground, large heavy units may be used to counterattack, while in case of deployment to an operational theatre, they are key to success.

Another reason why those who think that large units, both mechanized and armoured, have become of little use is that, at present, the main threat to civilized nations comes from international terrorism and fundamentalism. To fight these groups, special units are required. This is partially true, but it would be rash to reorganize the Army based on that judgement.

Today, there are many nations, especially in Central and Eastern Asia, where regular forces are mainly based on Groups including large armoured and mechanized units. No one can rule out the possibility of an armed conflict requiring their support. Special Units will be of little use, in the case of a war against those countries. In that case, the enemy will only be overcome by large-scale operations carried out with the support of heavy units.

Moreover, armoured/mechanized units and elements may be successfully employed to fight terrorist organizations as well, especially if the latter are not equipped with effective a/t systems. A case in point are the fairly good results obtained by Israel by using tanks to fight Palestinian terrorists also in an urban environment.

I think that those who are convinced that the Air Force can be successful even going it alone, are not completely right. Though the importance of this force is indisputable, we have learned from previous experience that it can be effectively employed against an enemy with a limited or no air defense system.

As a rule, combat operations do not end by achieving "fire superiority", even if its effect will contribute to utterly destroying the enemy, seizing key areas and freeing occupied territories.

It will be practically impossible to obtain such results without employing large armoures/mehcanized units and carrying out



Haapsalu Episcopal Cathedral.

high intensity combined arms operations.

Therefore, in my opinion, large armoured and mechanized units are unlikely to play a secondary role in the future. Moreover, there is no reason to believe that large-scale combined arms operations will be streamlined in the future. However, much will depend on those who will choose the best way to employ large units in the field, train personnel and exploit armoured vehicles' technical and combat capabilities.

The Red Army has mainly employed a wide range of mortars, howitzers, cannons, multiple rocket launchers and selfpropelled means. How will the Artillery be organized in the future?

The Artillery, which has been further integrated with missile forces, has always played a decisive role in the history of Russian Armed Forces, given its firing accuracy, effective preparation and rate of fire, in all geographical, weather and visibility conditions.

The vehicles used by missile and artillery forces can carry out quick movements and maneuvres on the battlefield and adequately protect personnel.

The experience gained in regional wars and armed conflicts fought over this last decade proved that missile, artillery and air forces delivered about 80/90 % of the aggregate firepower. In close combat operations, artillery fire reached 50-80%. This testifies to the fact that the role and functions of missile and artillery troops in achieving "fire superiority" will remain unchanged in the near future, especially following the adoption of high accuracy munitions. Moreover, enhanced air defense capabilities will inevitably lead to a limited use of air forces to provide direct fire support to units and elements operating in the field.

As regards the future of missile and artillery units, a possible solution seems that of setting up, within large units, reconnaissance and firing elements, including air and space vehicles, missile systems at operational and tactical levels, as well as rocket launchers, self-propelled artillery and EW systems, grouped under a same command.

Reconnaissance systems will play a key role, as they will allow for collecting accurate and relia-





ble real-time data on the selected targets, even in very distant places and areas undetectable from surface points. Connections are provided by automated systems linking units to Army Corps.

Computer-based and command systems will be as important as reconnaissance and fire equipment, in obtaining both fire and radio-electronic superiority in almost real time, even over highly maneuverable enemy troops.

Therefore, the main developments in the field of automated systems will be applied to unified multi-role command vehicles, which will be fielded to tactical and operational command



Left.

St. Petersburg, Pushkin Royal Palace.

Below.

"T-90S" battle tank.

systems, tactical missile units and elements, as well as to combat and combat support troops.

The new qualitative standards of missile and artillery troops will allow for designing and developing weapon systems with enhanced firing ranges and kill capabilities. These systems, together with new generation weapons equipped with automated sighting and targeting devices,

will boost the effectiveness of combat units and increase the number of their tasks.

In sum, I would like to restate that missile and artillery assets are now, as in the past, the weapons of choice in any war and will play a leading role in future armed conflicts.

Therefore, the Army's future capabilities and combat power will mainly depend on the changes made in this sector.

The Red Army's organizational structure comprised many special units. What is the role and nature of "Spetsnaz" in today's Army?

Special units and elements were set up at the beginning of the post-war period. When the Armed Forces of the most powerful nations in the world resorted to a massive use of missiles and nuclear weapons to fight their enemies, our military authorities decided to create new forces and reconnaissance means, to effectively identify enemy weapons and delivery systems, as well as collect information on possible enemy targets.

As early as the Great Patriotic War, the Red Army paid special attention to the training of personnel specialized in reconnais-



sance-sabotage tasks. Our combat experience proved that those units, if adequately prepared and equipped, had both reconnaissance and kill capabilities, and could destroy nuclear weapons, command sites and other important enemy targets.

Therefore, large units and elements with special tasks, together with their staff bodies, were set up within Military Districts to carry out the above mentioned missions.

The lessons learned from today's regional wars and armed conflicts taught us that special units can effectively carry out combat operations, when a rapid reaction is required, either before the intervention of combined arms teams or after the onset of a conflict.

Moreover, they collect information which cannot be obtained by other reconnaissance means and destroy or neutralize important enemy targets. Their actions include intercepting command activities, disrupting logistic systems, cutting communication lines and blocking the flow of reserves and supplies.

Special units are capable of infiltrating enemy territory to approach the targets they are reconnoitering. This way, it is possible to identify their exact position and collect reliable information, before data are released from other information sources. As things stand, large units and elements with special tasks may also carry out other important missions, such as research of rescue operations, in the case of aircraft or helicopter disasters or incidents, or participate in peacekeeping missions and counter-terrorism actions.

Thanks to their specialized training, these units proved to be particularly effective in fighting armed gangs in the Northern Caucasus. They mainly carried out the following tasks: identification of the hideouts, bases, camps and training centers of these gangs; destruction of weapon, ammunition and equipment storage sites; chase and capture or neutralization of small groups

of combatants or terrorists and their supporters.

As a consequence, large units and elements with special tasks are becoming more and more important. The Russian Armed Forces' "Spetsnaz" has a long track record of combat experiences and are key to guarantee the military security of our nation.

Army personnel is mainly made up of young conscripts serving for 12 to 24 months, depending on their level of instruction. What is the current development stage of the Army's professionalization process, to be finalized by 2005?

As I have already said, the Army's shift to an all volunteer system is considered by our political leadership as fundamental to increase our strength and combat power. The Ministry of Defense, together with the appropriate federal agencies belonging to the executive power, after analyzing all the issues relating to

Left.
"BMP-3" Infantry transport and attack vehicle.

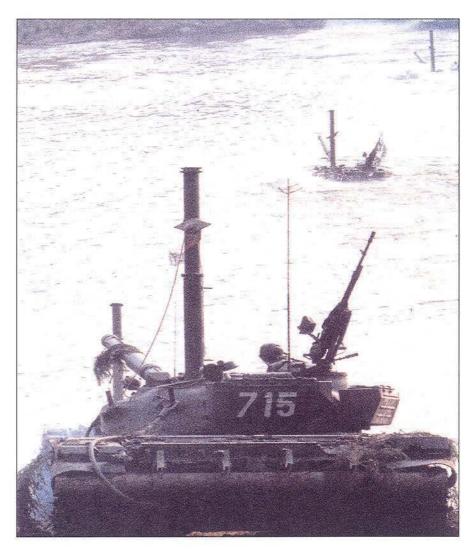
Right. *Tanks crossing a waterway.*

the system of manning the military organization, has submitted proposals to speed up the transition to a voluntary army. These are the basic issues dealt with by the Government's proposal presented to the President of the Russian Federation in September 2001. The President has endorsed that document and tasked governmental authorities with developing and testing the relative federal program by 2004.

The shift from conscription to a system in which personnel is enrolled on a contractual basis is not a simple change in status. On the contrary, it includes a series of provisions envisaging organic and structural changes in units, as well as in the civil and military infrastructure and level of technical equipment. The allocation of large funds and material resources is therefore necessary. To man only one division with contracted personnel, 2/2,5 billion rubles will be required and yearly maintenance costs will be much higher than those necessary to support an all conscript division.

Therefore, the provisions for establishing this new enrolment system envisage three phases: a preparatory phase to be completed by the end of 2004; an implementation phase from 2005 to 2010 and a follow-up phase, whose time-line will be established based on the outcome of the operational phase and the work completed.

To implement these objectives, ad-hoc working groups have been established at the Interagency Commission for military security of the Russian Federation's Security Council, as well as at the appropriate governmental federal agencies. Their work has



been organized following the directives of the Federation's President and Government.

As early as July 2002, the proposal to man military positions with contracted personnel was submitted to the Federation's Government, while the following federal program will be finalized in October 2003.

Until July 2003, the new concepts will be tested at the level of large units and elements, where it will be possible to ensure the necessary conditions and infrastructure, the required equipment level, the good state of armaments and military means and the performance of routine technical and combat training tasks. Non military operations will be carried out by civilian personnel or by a special contingent performing an alternative service.

Moreover, by the end of 2004, new changes will be made to the Federation's laws and steps will be taken to give further luster to the military status.

In the implementation phase, in line with the requirements satisfied, the number of military units and elements manned with contracted personnel will be gradually increased. This will mainly involve high-readiness units, which are an important foundation for the military security of our nation.

It is anticipated that the length of conscription will be shortened only when 50% of the positions covered by soldiers and NCOs are assigned to contracted personnel.

If the provisions envisaged by the federal program are rapidly and totally funded, by 2010 it will



"Mi-8" helicopter hovering over a Russian compound.

be possible to man most soldier and NCO rolls with personnel contracted on a voluntary basis.

In my opinion, this new system to man the Russian Armed Forces is both effective and tailored to the future development of our economy.

When have women first entered the Russian Armed Forces? What positions do they cover?

Though soldiering was considered as a typical male activity in the past, women too served their county with devotion. Their names have long been written in the list of our national heroes. Many of them have taken part in several battles, such as Princess Olga of Kyiv, who was at the head of one unit which gained several victories, Feodora Puzhbolskaya and Daria Rostovskaya, who bravely fought against the Tartar

hordes in the Kulikov area. Also in other historical periods, Russian women enrolled to fight and defend their nation, when necessary. The first Russian female Officer was Nadezhda Andreevna Durova, who took part in the 1812 Patriotic War with the rank of Cavalry Captain and became Knight of the Cross of St. George.

The first female units date back to World War One. On June 29, 1917, the Military Council of the Supreme Command decided to organize volunteer women into two Infantry battalions and four signal units.

Women have always occupied key positions in the Soviet Army and, before that, in the Red Army. Thus, during the Great Patriotic War in 1941-45, more than 800,000 women were enrolled. They made up 41% of medical personnel, 43% of medical assistants and 100% of nurses. More than 220,000 girls were snipers, belonged to signal units or other specialties. As regards the heroic deeds performed during

the war, 87 women obtained our highest national award, i.e. the title of Heroes of the Soviet Union, and more than 150,000 of them received many awards and medals.

Today, about 10,000 serve in the army as Officers and Praporshchiki (2). Two women are Colonel, about 300 are Lt. Colonels and Majors, about 1,300 are junior Officers and Praporshchiki. Other 13,000 women serve as Soldiers and NCOs and make up about 35% of the contracted personnel.

This ratio is higher than that of the other Armed Forces. Women cover 52 different positions. They are mainly represented in the medical, logistical and communication sectors and are particularly suited to service and repair some types of military equipment.

They are specialized personnel who mainly carry out logistic tasks within combat units and elements. Undoubtedly, female hands know better how to prepare a tasty meal and deliver medical aid. Sometimes, however, those who belong to the so-called "weaker sex" make up the whole crew of an air-defense or antimissile system.

In the last few years, in line with large cuts in personnel numbers, the streamlining of the organizational structure and the shift to a professional Army, the number of women in the Armed Forces has been reduced as well.

What principles inspire the training and development of Russian soldiers?

To answer this question properly, we should take into account our historical background. The principles inspiring the training of all Russian soldiers are those established at the turn of the XVIII century by Emperor Peter the Great in organizing a regular army, as further ratified by the 1716 Military Decree. Those principles were subsequently developed by Alexandr Vasilevich Suvorov, a famous Russian strategist, and included in his renowned work "The science of winning".

In the education sector, the main concepts to be explained to trainees are the superiority of spiritual values—over material ones, the support of national pride and patriotism, as well as the allegiance to the homeland and its military traditions. Moreover, both soldiers and officers should be convinced that dying in battle, they will sacrifice their lives for an ideal, i.e. the glory of their nation (a sacred gesture "We are Russians, God is on our side").

In the instruction sector, not only troops receive formal training, but must also understand what they are doing, i.e. the rationale behind each maneuver. They also learn how to take initiatives at bottom level and possibly push them to the top; how to be prudent in combat and at the same time show resolve in

operations (judgement at first sight, promptness, stamina) and how to exploit success to the very end (if a wood is not razed to the ground, it will grow again). They should learn to prefer quality over quantity (victory is for a happy few) and to obtain victory "with little bloodshed".

Peter the Great and A.V.Suvorov established a particular system for educating and training troops, based on their deep knowledge of military operations and Russian soldiers' psychology.

Those two renowned Russian strategists showed great insight into the national peculiarities of Russian soldiers: their capability of scarifying themselves to the utmost, performing incredible acts of courage and heroism and combating for their beloved Commander.

The values underpinning that system, incredibly similar to Russian people's moral principles and culture, were immediately understood and absorbed by Russian soldiers. They were extremely advanced concepts at that time, which had been faithfully handed down in history.

The Red Army drew the best teaching from the pre-revolutionary Army, as regards soldiers' training and education. As a consequence, eternal and deeply felt values were preserved, but at the same time new and advanced concepts were introduced into the training of troops, high standards were reached in the teaching of warfighting capabilities and personnel spirits were kept high. This way, the Red Army could defeat the Nazi troops, which had conquered almost all Europe and were considered as invincible.

The values inspiring Peter the Great's and A.V.Suvorov's concepts about the training of Russian soldiers are still valid. In fact, they reflect modern training and educational principles, as regards Army personnel.

There was a basic concept among them, i.e. the principle of

unified training, both for military and civilian personnel. Therefore, training and education take on a particular social and patriotic perspective, in line with national laws, present political trends and military doctrine requirements. The principle is based on the fact that military and professional training are always linked to their moral and psychological foundation: a firm belief in the importance and legitimacy of all actions taken to defend national interests. As a consequence, the Army was imbued with deeply felt military feelings, which had been thoroughly analysed by A.V.Suvorov.

Those trends are linked to the principle that it is necessary to teach troops very practical skills, useful to defend the country and its interests. Based on that principle, troops' organization and training are tailored to the requirements of modern wars, privileging real world experiences. This is in line with Suvorov's assumptions, according to which soldiers should never be caught unprepared in the battlefield, having faced similar situations in peace time. That principle proved to be true by the experience drawn from counter-terrorism operations carried out in the Northern Caucasus, where trained units obtained very good results with a very low number of casualties.

Admittedly, training is more effective when troops deeply believe in the importance and practical relevance of soldiering and in what they are doing. Therefore, another important principle is that of fostering trainees' awareness, initiative and self-reliance. Troops are to be encouraged to take the initiative and act, both during training and in the field. The lessons learned teach us that self-reliance, the wise implementation of new tactical methods, the assumption of calculated risk should not only be encouraged, but also considered

as a duty by all soldiers.

In Peter the Great's times, that principle became one of the most important milestones of the national school for the training and education of troops. Its implementation is witnessed by Suvorov's famous guidelines, i.e. "soldiers should understand the rationale behind their maneuvers" and have the following capabilities "judgement at first sight, promptness, stamina".

The principle of unified training and education, both at individual and unit level aims at enhancing the effectiveness of the training and education process. This way, it is possible to foster both warfighters' individual capabilities and units' operations. Military personnel can thus share the responsibility of carrying out operational tasks, learn how to deliver buddy aid and sacrifice their lives to attain a common goal. This method allows for teaching principles Russian soldiers have always believed in and at the same time taking into account soldiers' physical and psychological capabilities in the assignment of tasks.

The following principles are equally important: systematic, consequential, complete, practical and accessible training; constant updating of knowledge, experiences and capabilities.

Following these deeply rooted principles in personnel training and education, we will be capable of strengthening units' moral, spiritual and military resolve, as well as their readiness in facing any threat to the security of their nations.

Since 1992, the Russian Army has taken part in peacekeeping operations in former Yugoslavia, initially under UNOFOR, then IFORJSOFR (1995) and KFOR (1999 onward). What lessons have been learned?

Peacekeeping operations car-



ried out by multinational forces in the Balkans are a unique experience, as regards their scope, extension, preparation and conduct.

Both the Federation's and CIS nations's legislative and executive bodies have gained unparalleled experience in preparing and executing those operations. In fact, they have developed systems and ways to prevent conflicts of that type, refined laws and regulations on peacekeeping and set up ad hoc structures, within governmental organizations, supervising peacekeeping operations.

Moreover, based on the Yugoslav experience, the general principles governing the management of armed conflicts and their inherent problems have been maximised to develop a more effective national security strategy at national, regional and global level.

The Russian peacekeeping contingent in Kosovo is presently made up of one brigade with about 2,000 men; 600 more troo-



ps are deployed in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Our peacekeepers are mainly tasked with guaranteeing the security of local populations and creating the conditions necessary to launch negotiations, as well as implementing other measures to seek the peaceful resolution of disputes, enforce the rule of law and guarantee the

Left. "Smerch" multiple rocket launcher.

Right.

"BTR-90" transport and attack armoured vehicle.

Below.

"Msta-S" 152mm artillery self-propelled vehicle.

smooth functioning of social and state organizations.

Army units earmarked to take part in peacekeeping operations in the Balkans have been already trained for that task and have already gained some experience on the CIS territory. Therefore, I am convinced that they will





distinguish themselves in performing the assigned tasks in their respective areas of responsibility.

Very useful lessons were drawn from the joint operations carried out with the units of other countries taking part in KFOR. In fact, joint patrol and reconnaissancesearch operations, as well as activities to guarantee the safety of local populations were carried out. In each area of responsibility joint operations are also performed with the support of civil international organizations and activities are set in place to monitor the moves of warring parties' units.

There is a mutual exchange of information and guarantees are

multilaterally granted, as regards the conduct of peacekeeping operations.

Russian peacekeepers are more experienced in the organization sector and in carrying out reconnaissance operations aimed at timely identifying and preventing possible incidents in their area of responsibility. To this end, they establish contact with the local population to gather the information required. They subsequently exploit it for peacekeeping purposes, for organizing and executing psychological operations or for supporting the activities of those international organizations which have been officially authorized to operate in the conflict area.

The lessons learned in the peacekeeping operations in the Balkans have been fully exploited to organize and prepare units earmarked for other similar operations. More attention has been paid to the study of the histyory, customs and traditions of the people living in the conflict area. The possibility has been envisaged to sign an agreement between the warring parties, based on the mandate and the UN Charter. The study of languages has been maximised and practical manuals and booklets have been distributed to personnel, Local anthropic and geographic cha-



racteristics have been taken into due account and new types of actions have been devised by peacekeepers to prevent the fighting parties from massing their troops, to disrupt enemy deployments and defuse conflicts in their areas of responsibility.

In my opinion, the lessons learned by units during international peacekeeping missions in former Yugoslavia will allow them to improve their readiness levels in executing similar tasks both in the CIS area and in other regions worldwide, if necessary.

Since 1992, Russian troops have served in peacekeeping contingents on the CIS territory, in particular in the Trans-Caucasus and Moldavia. What is the difference with the peacekeeping operations carried out under the UN umbrellas?

The collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 destabilized several regions and triggered a series of armed conflicts. As a consequence, right from the first months of the CIS establishment, great strides were made to set up a body of rules on peacekeeping. Basic documents were developed and endorsed to regulate the preparation and conduct of peacekeeping operations on the CIS territory. These documents reflect the provisions of the UN Charter, the guidelines and rules established by international laws, in line with the decisions of the UN Security Council and OSCE documents.

Thanks to the actions carried out by CIS joint peacekeeping forces, the civil war in Tajikistan has been prevented and the armed conflicts in the Trans-Caucasus and in the Pridnestrovie region in Moldavia have found a political solution.

Today, peacekeeping contingents have been withdrawn from Tajikistan, but the 201s motorized Division, which is still in place, will be given the status of Russian military HQ. Our soldiers are still carrying out peacekeeping tasks in Georgia and Moldavia. In the conflict area between Georgia and Abkhazia there are few peacekeepers and their strength, which is little more than a battalion, is not



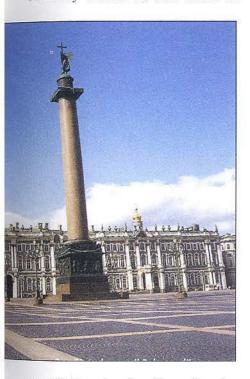
enough to solve the problems of that area. A small group with the same number of forces is deployed in Southern Ossetia. A small unit is still in the Pridnestrovie region in Moldavia.

The main differences between the peacekeeping operations carried out under the CIS and US umbrellas are in force levels and decision-making processes, as well as in the operational subordination and command of peacekeeping contingents.

As regards the UN, the decision to prepare and execute peacekeeping missions is taken by the Left. "T-80U" battle tank.

Below. St. Petersburg, Winter Palace.

Security Council, a body where each decision can be vetoed by any of its permanent members. The Secretary General, with the consent of the Security Council, appoints the Chief of the Mission and the Commander of the military contingent or the Chief Military Observer. The Chief of



the Mission is subordinated to the Secretary General who, in turn, is under the authority of the Security Council.

Peacekeeping operations on the CIS territory are carried out based on the decisions of the Council of the CIS Heads of State of the (an operation of this kind is underway in Abkhazia), and also based on bilateral, trilateral and multilateral agreements (two operations of this kind are underway in Southern Ossetia and Moldavia).

The mandate of each operation is submitted by the Council of

CIS Ministers of Foreign Affairs to the Council of the Heads of States, which has to ratify it. The OPCOM of the joint peacekeeping forces is exercised by the Council of Defense Ministers of through the General Staff coordinating the military cooperation within CIS, which supervises CIS-wide military cooperation. In between meetings of the Council of Defense Ministers, the OPCOM of the joint peacekeeping forces is assigned to the Deputy Chief of the Council of Defense Ministers. Chief of Staff responsible for coordinating military cooperation within CIS.

As regards hosting and operating procedures of peacekeeping units, they do not differ from the operations performed under the auspices of the UN.

In the former USSR, the armaments industry was strictly linked to the Armed Forces. As many companies have been privatized, what are today's relations between the Army and the armaments industry? Is there an effective connection between production plans and customer requirements?

Since the early 90's, the Federation has adopted a free market regime and the relations between the armaments industry and the Army have changed accordingly. This shift took place in the mid-nineties. Based on these new relations, the following principle has been established: the design, production and delivery of armaments and military means to equip the Armed Forces are mainly carried out within the Defense procurement plans.

* Journalist

Notes:

(1) At Operational Theatre and joint Command levels

(2) A category between Officers and NCOs



Nikolay Viktorovich Kormiltsev was born on March 14, 1946 in Omsk. He attended the Omsk Combined Arms Command School and the M. V. Frunze and General Staff Academies. He covered all command positions within the Army organization as commander of mechanized regiment, mechanized division and Army Corps in several Military Districts. In August 1996 he was appointed Commander of the Zabaykalskiy Military District, then of the Siberian District.

On March 28, 2001, he was appointed Commander in Chief of Ground Forces by Decree of the President of the Russian Federation and in May 2001, Commander in Chief of Ground Forces and Deputy Defence Minister of the Russian Federation

He was awarded several decorations, medals and the traditional personal combat weapon.

He is married and has

Interview with Lieutenant General Peter Leahy, Chief of Staff of the Australian Army

IN THE SERVICE OF THE COUNTRY AND FOR THE LIBERTY OF PEOPLE



by Enrico Magnani*

Australia seems far away, but is actually much closer than we imagine. It is inhabited by proud and determined people and can count on expert and brave soldiers who participated in numerous multinational operations, distinguishing themselves for their professionalism and sense of duty. Our conversation with Lt. Gen. Leahy provides us with a great deal of information on the efforts of the Country towards a structural, operational and technological reorganization of the military instrument.







General, could you describe the Australian Army of today to the readers of "Rivista Militare"?

The Australian Army is a modern, balanced force comprising reservists and permanent soldiers. Today the Army's strength is approximately 45,000. We deliver our fighting power through combined teams which include elements of infantry, armour, engineers, aviation and signals supported by a range of combat support and combat service elements.

We are already well equipped but expect significant improvements to our capabilities with the introduction into service of the European Armed Reconnaissance Helicopter. We have also decided to acquire fifty-nine M1A1 Abrams tanks, which will improve our firepower and protection.

Our troops are currently serving all over the world. We have conducted a range of peace support operations in the Asia-Pacific region in recent years, in Bougainville, East Timor and the Solomon Islands. These deployments have been highly successful. Most of these troops have now returned to Australia. We have maintained a contribution to the Coalition operations in Iraq and we also provide a wide range of support to UN Operations in Africa and the Middle East.

Few people know that, even excluding the two World Wars, the Australian Army was involved in a number of complex and tough military campaigns, like Korea, Malaysia and Vietnam, all completed with very good results. What lessons were learned from these campaigns so different from each other?

The Australian Army has a distinguished history in fighting beside its Allies in every major conflict of the twentieth century. Australia is a remote, island-continent, so every time we go to war we are reminded that logistics and training are the ingredients of success. Our people have never let us down. Our soldiers are resilient and

very versatile. But, in peacetime, we have sometimes lost sight of the fact that we need to be able to rapidly deploy well away from our bases. Fortunately, we have never had to fight a battle on our own soil. Nevertheless, security issues of various types have demanded a response from us over the years. In addition to Vietnam and Korea, we have provided troops to major UN missions in Cambodia, Somalia and Rwanda. The lesson is that we must maintain readiness and deployability.

Australian and Italian soldiers worked together for the first time in East Timor in 1999. What can you say about this experience, which showed Australia's dramatic capability of organizing and leading a "coalition of the willing" in a few days? What are your comments about this cooperation, considering that it was the Italian Army's first operational experience in a tropical area?

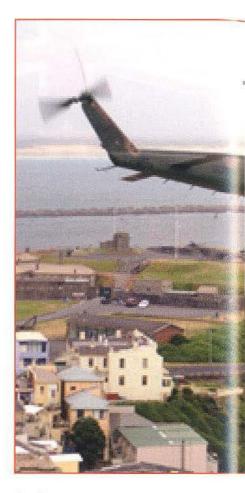
Our East Timor experience was very important. Since the Vietnam War we had largely been planning to conduct operations on Australian soil. For this reason, a major off-shore operation - especially as lead-nation of a Coalition - presented us with a very large challenge. We were successful, but this emergency highlighted some deficiencies in our deployable logistics and our strategic agility. These problems have been addressed by the Government, with the result that we are a more agile and more potent force than we were in 1999. The evidence that we had absorbed the lessons of East Timor came with our rapid deployment of forces as lead-nation in the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands (RAMSI). As they always do, our soldiers performed extremely

well. Their individual skills and professionalism ensured that some deficiencies in equipment did not undermine the success of the mission.

We were most appreciative of the support provided by the Italian Army during the IN-TERFET deployment. Many Australians can trace their ancestry to Italy and therefore we were able to find liaison officers and interpreters very easily from among our own people. Your troops acquitted themselves very well. It meant a great deal to us Australians to see troops from as far away as Europe willing to undertake a risky operation in our region. Today we are serving together again in Iraq. I know that this will deepen the ties between our Armies.

Looking at Bougainville, Timor, Afghanistan and Iraq, we can see that the Australian Army was deeply engaged in different kinds of regions. What was the experience made in those peculiar operational profiles that went from mountains to jungle and deserts, from peace-keeping to high-intensity operations?

The high tempo of diverse operations has taught us very important lessons. The key lesson of all our recent experience has been the importance of the Joint and Coalition Operations. As a medium power, Australia has real limits on its ability to project force. In the Global War on Terror (GWOT) we have developed very effective techniques for operating in Coalition with the US. This is a huge benefit to Australia. Likewise, the Army has been reminded that we need the support of our Navy and Air Force to deploy, sustain and redeploy ourselves. Joint support is vital to increase our reach

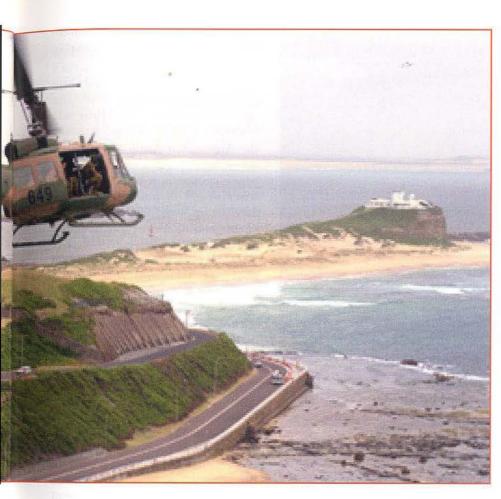


An "Iroquois 649" helicopter of the Australian Army.

back to fire support also. This has been an important force multiplier in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

Finally, the ability to conduct war fighting and peace operations from the tropical islands of the South Pacific to the deserts of the Middle East and the snowy mountains of Afghanistan, reminds us that resilient, adaptable, highly trained soldiers are the most important component of our Army. Our soldiers have performed superbly in the last decade and we must continue to train and equip them to maintain their winning edge.

Since the end of WWII Australia has been in the front line in peacekeeping operations in the Middle East,



Africa and Asia with different organizations. What is the record of the participation in these missions?

As I mentioned above, Australia takes its responsibilities as a founding member of the United Nations very seriously. We have provided support to UN observation missions in the Middle East for over thirty years. We also had long-standing commitments to the UN mission in Kashmir. Recently, Australia was a major supporter of the UN missions to Cambodia, Somalia and Rwanda. We have established a reputation for fairness and decency in the conduct of such operations. Successive Australian Governments have regarded the UN as an important force for the world's good and we have punched above our weight in terms of willingness to support the military operations of the UN.

Looking at the past, the peacekeeping doctrine is deeply changed. What could be the future of these operations?

I believe we entered an age of great complexity in the land environment. The Australian Army has acknowledged this through the adoption of a concept termed "Complex War Fighting". Essentially, the convenient boundaries between peace operations and war fighting have eroded. The USMC reached this conclusion a few years ago, through the concept of the "Three-Block War".

However, the emergence of highly lethal non-state actors, the proliferation of hand-held anti-armoured/anti-air weaponry and the phenomenon of state failure have all coalesced to radically alter the threat environment. These provide the elements of complexity to which I alluded earlier. In





Left.

Preparing for a decontamination operation.

Right.

Special forces on training.

the Australian Army we have always asserted that the best peace-keeper is a highly capable warrior. It is possible to step down from war-fighting to peacekeeping. But the reverse does not apply.

The UN mission in Somalia demonstrated how rapidly the nature of a mission may transform. These changes in the threat environment will make peace operations more dangerous and will demand that arbitrary distinctions between war fighting and "Operations Other than War" break down. The force packages that deploy into humanitarian crises will need a high level of protection and survivability in order to be able to exercise discretion and nuance in the escalation of the use of force.

We have spoken on the Australian Army of yesterday and today. What about the Australian land force of tomorrow? How will it be organized? What will be the relationship between man and technology?

Our Army is currently engaged in a major modernization programme. My directive is that the Army is to be "hardened". In other words, I want it to be harder to hit and harder hitting. This will entail transforming from a predominantly light infantry army to a light armoured Army. This will also entail a degree of cultural change. The "hardened" Army will be more robust and agile. It will also be networked. It is my intent that these changes be implemented by 2012 as a milestone to the "Seamless Force 2020". This will be the fully networked Australian Defence Force, which will link sensors and shooters seamlessly throughout the battle space. Ultimately, the individual soldier will become a "node" of this network system.

Historically the Australian Army has always had strong ties with the ground forces of the other English-speaking nations, such as the US, the UK, Canada and New Zealand. What is the level of cooperation with these Countries? In particular, what can you say on the origins, the present and the future prospects of the ABCA programme?

The ABCA (US, UK, Canada and New Zealand) arrangements are of deep historical as well as practical significance to the Australian Army. In particular, our close relationship with the United States gives us access to technology and doctrine that would be beyond our reach as a medium sized power. We maintain an active standardization programme with the ABCA powers, also through the placement of reciprocal exchange officers in one another's nations.

The Australian Army, also due to its massive engagements, has recently reinforced the role of the reserve, a bridge between the Armed Forces and civil society. Australian reservists for the first time have been engaged in the Timor operations. How do you evaluate this experience? Do you plan to continue in this direction?

The role of reservists has always been very important to the Australian Army. For most of our first century as a nation, we pre-



dominantly relied on reservists. The Australian Regular Army was only created in the aftermath of the Second World War. So the history and ethos of the reserve is central to our identity, as a nation and as an Army. The vast mobilizations of men in the two global conflicts of the last century were essentially comprised of citizen soldiers.

In recent times our reserve system was based on the old Cold War paradigm and envisaged the reserve only playing a significant role in the event that another nation launched a massive invasion of Australia with conventional forces. Since the East Timor crisis we have sought to make the reserve more relevant to the complex environment of the 21st Century.

The law has been changed to make reservists available for overseas deployment. Rather than providing a "surge" of mobilization capability, we now want them to provide skills that are not readily available in the regular force. For example, many of our surgeons on recent operations have been reservists. We also rely on the reserve to reinforce and round out our permanent units on operations. Recently we have raised the readiness of components of our reserve forces to assist in Homeland Security Tasks.

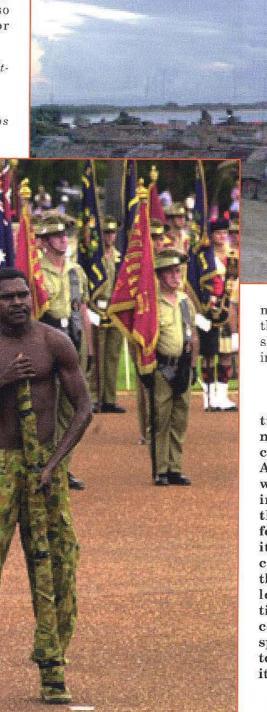
Your question referred to the deployment of a company of reservists with one of our regular battalions in East Timor. This was definitely a success. The troops served very well with their regular counterparts. We also hosted a visit to East Timor

Right.

A column of "Leopard" tanks waiting for embarkation.

Below.

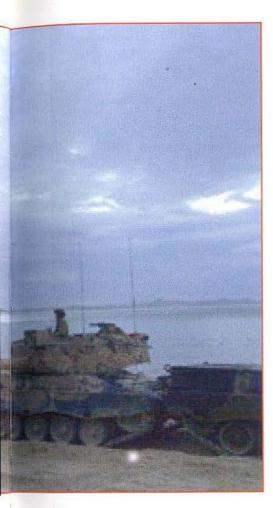
Ceremony for the Native Troops Centennial.



many of their employers, and they were very impressed at the skills their people were developing in their military service.

The new threats to international stability forced many nations to strengthen their capability to respond. The Australian Army, together with the other Services, the intelligence community and the federal and local police forces, has recently upgraded its non-conventional answer capabilities, beginning with the SAS Regiment. Please, allow me a provocative question. Do you think that the recent worldwide emphasis on special and elite forces risks to reduce the combat capabilities of the Armed Forces?

No. Every Army will need to maintain a balanced force struc-



ture. We have enhanced our Special Forces and we are moving towards multi-agency task grouping with police and a range of other agencies to expand on our joint synergies. Over time, I predict that some of the skills that are currently the monopoly of the Special Forces will be dispersed more widely throughout the conventional forces. In particular, as we network the Army, I envisage a future in which individual soldiers can orchestrate the effects of air and space platforms and reach back to fires from a range of assets. Our SF people have already acquired these skills. Over time I think that this will become a routine land force capability. Because of the increase of the lethality of weapons, I believe that there will be an enduring requirement for the combat weight of conventional forces. Furthermore, as Iraq has demonstrated, there is a need for combat weight and also manpower to conduct stabilisation operations after the enemy conventional forces have been destroyed. All of this suggests that we will require "mass and weight" for the foreseeable future.

For years the Australian Forces have had the strategic task of defending the continent. Some years ago, however, Canberra has opted for a more active presence in the region, demonstrated by the increased presence of Australian soldiers abroad. How did these choices influence the Australian Army's doctrine and mentality?

Our primary mission is the defence of the Australian nation and its interests. We now live in an era when our geography alone does not provide us with security. We need to be able to operate both on our own soil and – where necessary – to deploy away from Australia.

Our Army has a joint and deployable culture. We rely on our RAN and RAAF comrades do deliver us into the Area of Operations, to support us with fires and logistics and to get us home. As events in East Timor and the Solomon Islands have reminded us, we cannot be a secure nation in an insecure neighbourhood. As a result, our Government has directed us to maintain the ability to conduct operations within our immediate neighbourhood. The Defence White Paper released in December 2000 formally directed that the Army be capable of simultaneous deployment of a Brigade and a Battalion Group within the immediate region.

We have remedied the deficiencies in our deployability and sustainability, which were experienced during the INTERFET deployment. I believe our doctrine for Manoeuvre Operations in the Littoral Environment (MOLE) is





sound. The evidence of recent operations, such as the RAMSI in the Solomon Islands, is that we are headed in the right direction. The current Defence Capability Programme is enhancing the Joint Capabilities to enable joint littoral manoeuvre. We are satisfied with that.

What are your future programmes? I refer to what appeared in the specialized press about MBTs, AFVs, Artillery, helicopters and logistic assets.

The amended Defence Capability Programme details all of these plans for the next 10 years. Key enhancements to our land forces will be achieved by the procurement of the replacement MBT, and the upgraded AFV/APC fleet. This will contribute to my end state of a "Hardened Army". Our Armed Recon Helicopters are entering service and the AIR 9000 project will deliver additional

troop-lift assets. All of this will be underpinned by networking, to enhance the situational awareness and communications of the individual soldier and to link us more effectively into the joint team.

Speaking about the Australian military perception, we could not avoid remarking the "special relationship" with New Zealand. However, Wellington seems to be taking different decisions in its defence and security policy. How are these differences affecting the historical interoperability between Australian and New Zealand units?

The bonds between Australia and New Zealand are very deep. They will not be affected by different emphasis in our force structure. The Kiwis have made different strategic choices. That is valid. They face an entirely different range of challenges and a dif-

ferent environment. We do a lot of collaboration with them and the cross-fertilization amongst our people is very important to both Armies and occurs at every level. We maintain a high degree of interoperability with the New Zealand Army. In a very recent regional contingency, we have worked very effectively with them.

An article published some months ago on the "International Defence Review" said that the Australian Army is on the way to become like the USMC in terms of combat force projection capabilities. Could this model really be very similar to the Australian Army of tomorrow?

I have always believed that the USMC has much to teach us in terms of littoral manoeuvre. They have a similar emphasis on individual training and a small-team ethos. However, it is not a valid comparison to state that we can "project force" in the same way that a Superpower can. That is not the guidance that our Government has given us and our capabilities stop short of entry by air and sea into a hostile environment at this stage.

In the past, due to the geostrategic position of Australia, the naval and air forces were prevalent in the definition of the national defence policies. Is this still the case or, in consideration of the most complex situation in the region and in the world, is there more balance among the Services?

I think every modern sophisticated Defence Force now understands the importance of joint Lieutenant General Peter Leahy was born in Melbourne on October 30, 1952. After secondary school, he attended the Royal Military College. Assigned to the Royal Australian Regiment as Platoon Leader, he was later Deputy Commander of the 5th Mechanised Regiment and Commander of the 8th Infantry Regiment. From 1981 to 1982 he served in Hong Kong as Operations Officer and Company Commander of the "Princess Mary's Own" 10th Gurkha Regiment".

From 1997 to 1999, Gen. Leahy commanded the 3rd Brigade and the Rapid Deployment Force in Townsville.

He was an instructor at the Cadet Officers School at Portsea, and a teacher of Tactics at Singleton's Infantry Centre. In 1987 he was assigned to the U.S. Army Command and General Staff at Fort Leavenworth, where he remained until 1999 as an instructor of Combined Operations and Counter Revolutionary Warfare.

In 1993 he was named Military Assistant to the Army Chief of Staff and, from 1994 to 1995, held the position of Director, Army Research and Analysis Centre. In 2000, after a period as Chief of Staff of the Australian Theatre Command, he was appointed Deputy Chief of Staff of the Army.

Gen. Leahy attended Staff Courses in Australia, the United States and the United Kingdom, and is a member of the Australian College of Defence and Strategic Studies. In 1974 he graduated in Military Studies at the New South Wales University and, during his stay at the U.S. War College, graduated in Military Art and Sciences.

In 2002, Gen. Leahy was promoted to Officer of the Military Division of the Order of Australia, of which he had been a member since 1975, in recognition of his distinguished service as Director of the Research and Analysis Centre. For his activity at Fort Leavenworth, he was awarded the U.S. Army Medal for Distinguished Service.

On June 28, 2002, Lieutenant Leahy was appointed Chief of Staff of the Australian Army.

synergies. I have insisted that my people bring a joint perspective to every thing that we do. For a period after the Vietnam War there was a tendency to consider the Defence of Australia in terms of sea denial by the RAN and the RAAF. Even during this period the Army was heavily engaged in operations away from Australia: I have already mentioned Cambodia, Somalia and Rwanda. These were predominantly land force deployments. Regardless of the absence of the threat of invasion, the Army was heavily involved in operations. I think this raised the awareness among the Government and policy communities that the land

forces are a very flexible instrument of national power. Moreover, the post Cold War Period has expanded the demands that are placed on the ADF. Our current assessment is that a direct conventional attack on the Australian continent is very unlikely. But as East Timor, the Solomon Islands and the GWOT have demonstrated, regional and global contingencies can arise with very little warning. Inevitably, the Army seems to be called on as the force of first resort in these situations.

* Journalist